Tree transplanting for new residence at the Glendale campus

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New Hall of Fame inductees at the Welland campus

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1999 Culinary Awards at Maid of the Mist Centre

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OCT. 15, 1999 FREE VOLUME 30 ISSUE 2

Niagara News is produced by the Journalism - Print students at Niagara College, Welland Campus

International cuisine was featured at the Niagara College Maid of the Mist Centre's Culinary Management student food booth during the sixth annual Food Festival on Merritt Island, Oct. 2 and 3. From left, Jeff Culbert, 20, of Niagara Falls, a second-year student, said students must attend at least two out of eight or nine off-site functions in which the college participates, adding, "It's the best part of the program." Dave Hicks, 18, of Niagara Falls, a first-year student, said he's been in classes for two weeks and "I actually got a job already at the Fine Kettle-o-Fish."

Photo by Penni Lafleur

Schools commit to pilot project

By MARK GARRETT
and SAM BAYLY
Staff Writers

A new agreement signed Sept. 30 by Niagara College and the District School Board of Niagara (DSBN) is aimed at helping high school students considering technological careers.

The agreement, called the Technology Education Pathway Project, involves annually updating technological courses at the high school and college levels.

The project "will help pave the way for students to be better prepared for college life and beyond," says Dan Patterson, president of Niagara College.

The project commits both parties to recommend relevant course selections to help students make informed choices to prepare them for college.

"It's a win-win for everybody," says Bill McLean, DSBN director.

Now in the pilot stage, Niagara high schools are following the same project manuals the college co-ordinators are using.

After evaluation and modification, the project will be made available to school boards and colleges across the province.

Patterson and McLean signed the agreement at the college's Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Present was the architect of the project, Paul Kendrick. The program was designed through the eyes of Grade 9 students, he says, to help them to see what career paths are available and what is needed to achieve them. Kendrick is the co-ordinator of the Electrical Engineering Technician and Technology programs at Niagara College.

"Making information available to students at an early age," says Patterson, "gives them insight into the variety of exciting careers in technology and prepares them with the tools and the confidence to make informed decisions about their own career paths and goals."

See related photo page 3

Firing range poses no safety risk

By TARA PURPURA
Staff Writer

A firing range on Niagara College's Welland campus will not be a public safety concern, agree college and Regional Municipality of Niagara officials.

Niagara Regional Police (NRP) Services Chief Grant Waddell approached Niagara College in 1997, said Bonnie Rose, vice-president academic, to propose a partnership and build a $5-million training facility at the Welland campus.

A number of joint-training initiatives were already in place between the college and the NRP. The current indoor portion of the firing range in St. Catharines has been deemed unsafe because of ventilation problems and high lead levels. A new range is necessary for police training.

The region, which governs the NRP, approved funding for the project in 1998.

One early concern was the issue of locating a training facility with a firing range on a college campus.

The college wanted to make sure that safety concerns "checked out,"

Continued on page 2

$2.6-million surprise

By JOHN ROBBINS
Staff Writer

Niagara College officials are reporting a $2.6-million accumulated surplus as of September 1999. This figure is much higher than the $1.58-million accumulated surplus the college expected to have by March 31, 2000, the end of the current fiscal year.

"Under-promise and over-deliver," said Tom Gauld, chair of Niagara College's Board of Governors, commenting on the higher than projected figures.

"Really, I must congratulate the college administration for very sound financial management."

Hans van der Slagt, vice-president of administration at Niagara College, said having a surplus is something "any organization in managing its affairs prudently and wisely would want to do."

The college's accumulated surplus, van der Slagt explained, is not set aside for any "special" purposes. He said it represents about five per cent of the college's

Continued on page 2

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EYE ON NIAGARA

Deficit in next two years

Continued from page 1

revenues in any given year, an amount he considers a "reasonable buffer."

"We (the college) haven't had the luxury of having that cushion in some time."

Four years ago, the provincial government cut the college's annual operating grant of $20 million by 15 per cent. "In one fell swoop," said van der Slagt, revenues were cut by about $3 million a year.

Since the college was operating in a deficit position, provincial funding cuts resulted in the college having to make up the shortfall by raising tuition and introducing cuts of its own. These included layoffs and the elimination of several academic programs.

"The college was left with no choice but to implement cutbacks (to the college's expenditures) quickly because there was no surplus to draw from as opposed to the cutbacks being phased in over a number of years."

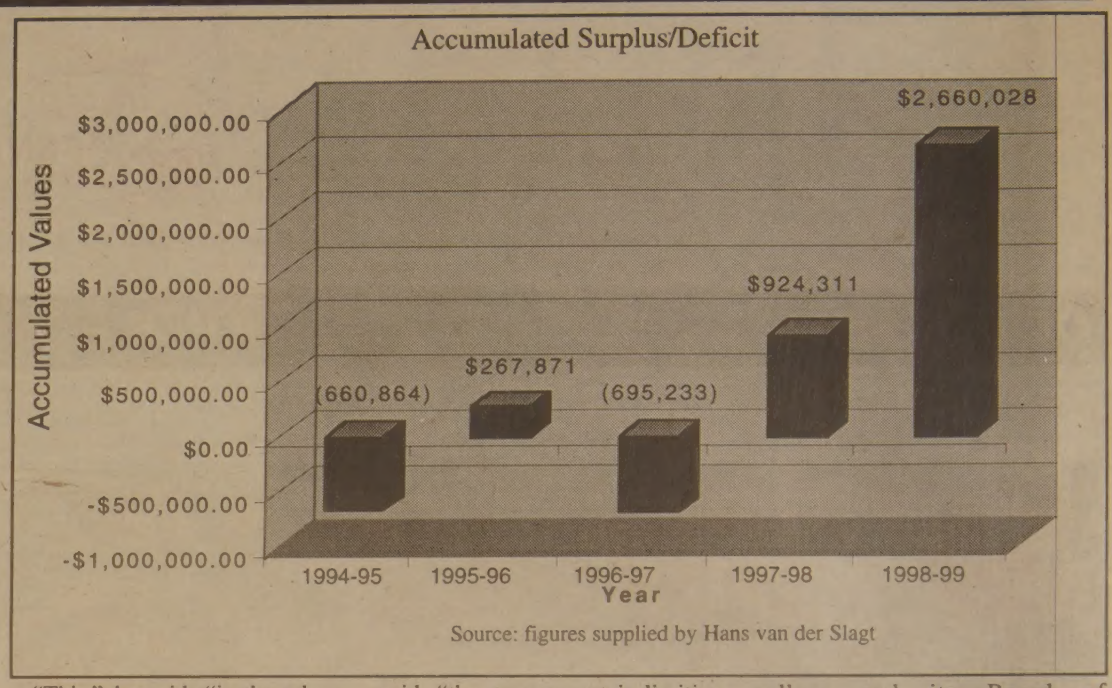
He said the college has benefited from the cuts made four years ago, but "there are some major challenges ahead."

While the amount of money the college receives from the province is a fixed sum each year, the cost to the college of maintaining the present level of services is going up.

The college projects an annual operating deficit of $382,000 for the fiscal year 2000, followed by a deficit of about $1.91 million in 2001, "unless we take aggressive action," van der Slagt said.

Van der Slagt said the Board of Governors has several future options available when considering how best to deal with the projected shortfall, including increasing revenues and continuing to find cost savings.

"We (the college) could probably run for four or five years without major changes. That gives us lots of time to plan solutions," said Gauld.



Source: figures supplied by Hans van der Slagt

"This," he said, "is the advantage of having a reserve . . . you have time to make sound changes."

While Gauld did not rule out the possibility of tuition increases, he said, "the government is limiting — and rightfully so — the amount in tuition increases that colleges can go after."

In the meantime, Gauld said the college and its Board of Governors will "continue to improve upon the efficiency of the college and seek to generate new revenue sources."

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NRP training facility reflects partnership between college, police

Continued from page 1

said Rose, adding, "The range will be fully controlled by the police."

"The primary business that will be conducted at the new facility is education and training for the officers of the NRP service, so why not on a college campus?

"Secondly, professional opportunities and enhancement for our staff are ways of leveraging new resources or gaining new technology and access to (state-of-the-art) equipment," said Rose.

The site will be where the Mackenzie building parking lot is situated. The annex to the Mackenzie building will be renovated and attached to the new facility.

'We saved literally hundreds of thousands of dollars for the Police Services Board . . .'

—Bonnie Rose

The NRP, through the region, will pay for the renovations to the Mackenzie building, "so no college dollars will go toward renovating that building," said Mal Woodhouse, the college's director of facilities management.

"The only thing that we were worried about is what impact does it have with a bunch of officers walking around with guns through the building?" said Woodhouse.

"They (the college and the NRP) are very cognizant of that."

The safety of the firing range was a "major concern " when the project began, said Doug Martin, Fort Erie regional councillor.

"The biggest concern for members of regional council was the projected cost of the project," said Martin, adding, "Regional council understood that safety implementations are costly."

The college and the NRP will "benefit" from this facility, said Rose. The NRP will have a new firing range and training facility, and the students will "benefit from enriched learning experiences," she added.

"We saved literally hundreds of thousands of dollars for the Police Services Board with the support we provide. It adds to the reputation of the college. We're the first college to have this kind of training facility on their campus."

The facility will include a studio for the production of training videos made by the NRP, who provide them to other police forces and agencies across North America.

Construction of the 25,000-square-foot facility is set for completion in December 2000.

SAC

Starting off on the right path

District School Board of Niagara Director Bill McLean, left, and Niagara College President Dan Patterson sign the Technological Education Pathway Project at the Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake. The project will help high school students considering technological careers.

Photo by Mark Garrett

VP Seto brings positive influence

By JASON VIZBULIS
Staff Writer

Dave Seto, 28, is the new Student Administrative Council (SAC) vice-president of campus events for the Welland campus.

Seto, of Port Colborne, decided to run for the position at the urging of last year's Welland SAC president Jamie Ebsary. However, when nobody else contested the position, Seto won by acclamation.

Seto said he wants to give back to the students and "make a positive influence for the school."

Seto is in his second year of the General Arts and Science program. He takes mostly math and science courses. He is also taking a chemistry course at Brock University, in St. Catharines. Prior to that, he earned a Health Science Preparatory diploma in a one-year program at Niagara College.

Seto said everybody "has been friendly" since he started in his new position. He said it's a job he likes. "I don't mind the extra work." He adds he doesn't have "a lot of school work."

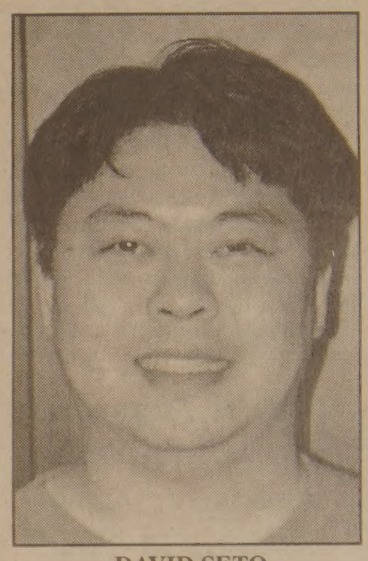
Seto has done volunteer work for various charitable foundations in the Toronto area. One of these was the Ontario Heart and Stroke Foundation, where he stuffed envelopes and canvassed door-to-door. Seto said he was disappointed because "very few people" wanted to support the charity.

"Anybody can be afflicted with a disease. Nobody is immune."

Seto and his counterparts at the Glendale campus, in Niagara-on-the-Lake, and the Maid-of-the-Mist Centre, in Niagara Falls, have many events planned for the coming year. Seto said he is going to be very active in the Drug Awareness Week. "I have never tried illicit drugs," he said, adding he is against using drugs.

Two other events coming up are Alcohol Awareness Week from Oct. 18 to 22 and Sexual Awareness Week from Feb. 21 to 25.

Seto said, "It's important to have fun in school," and that school is not just "about books."



DAVID SETO

Therefore, SAC is planning many fun activities, such as a trip to the SkyDome to see the World Wrestling Federation at a cost of $30 on Nov. 20. Seto said the ticket is worth $35.

Other events in the planning stages are a hockey trip to see the Toronto Maple Leafs play the Buffalo Sabres at the new Air Canada Centre in Toronto. Seto said he will try to get the "best tickets that the students can afford" for either the Dec. 6 or the Feb. 26 game. Also in the works are trips to see games by the National Football League's Buffalo Bills and the National Basketball Association's Toronto Raptors.

Communication key to boosting spirit

Survey to gauge interest in activities events

By ROBERT LAPENSÉE
Staff Writer

School spirit is down and there is no easy way to give it a boost unless the Student Administrative Council (SAC) improves communications with the students.

With tuition rising and the SAC activity fees going up, some students feel they should be getting more for their money.

Tiffani Fox, a second-year student in the General Arts and Science program, says SAC doesn't have a lot of events and doesn't promote them enough. She would like to see more communication.

"They need to communicate to all students," says Fox, "not just the ones that come to the pub."

Fox doesn't blame SAC alone for the low turnout at events. She says the students are lacking in the spirit department.

"It is really starting to get on my nerves that no one cares," says the 24-year-old, who is from Hamilton. "It doesn't seem that anyone knows anything about the school."

Fox, in her fifth year here, says school spirit has worsened. The one thing she's impressed with, she says, is the participation in intramural sports during the designated SAC time. This is a two-hour block from 2:30 p.m. until 4:30 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Fox says SAC has handled this well, and there is always a good turn out.

Patricia Pichette, 19, of Welland, the vice-president of campus affairs at the Welland campus, says she'd like to improve the communication link.

"My biggest focus is communicating with the students this year by working with class representatives. We are hoping for more student turnout and more awareness."

Jennifer Beatty, 23, a second-year student in the Educational Resources and Special Needs program and the SAC president for the Welland campus, says she'd like to see event attendance go up. She says she hopes to work more closely with the student reps to help pass the word about SAC events around campus.

"I'm really looking forward to passing a lot of information on to the class reps," Beatty says. "I think that is a really important way to get everybody involved and organized."

"We want more advertising and more involvement, but a lot of things are put together at the last minute.

"I think in some cases it has to go beyond putting posters up. That is something we are definitely going to try to do this year."

Beatty says SAC will be trying to organize more events that will include all students in all age groups. A lot of the activities SAC plans do involve bars, so the venue excludes everyone under the age of 19. When there is going to be a trip to a bar scheduled, then, on the same night, another activity will be planned for the under-age students.

"It'll be, like, this is what we are planning on Friday night. If you want to go and you're of age you can, but if you want to go (and you're not of age) we can send them bowling or send them to M.T. Bellies and buy them a round of nachos. As much as there are different activities it is still creating activities for them."

Beatty said she's trying to make herself approachable and to make her face known around campus.

"I really encourage people to come to me with suggestions (about what they'd like to do.)

"I think, in some instances, I don't have all the ideas of what people want to be doing and where they want their student money going."

Beatty says someone came to her asking about a wrestling trip. SAC looked into that and then organized it.

"That is something I would never have thought of," Beatty says, adding students have a lot of good ideas.

Pichette has recently put together a survey asking students which activities they are interested in. The surveys were given to the class reps, who will talk to their classmates about what activities they want to do. The surveys must be handed back by Oct. 15. The research will help narrow the choice of activities the student body is interested in.

"I just want everybody to have a say this year," Beatty says.

CORRECTION

In the Vol. 30, No. 1 issue of the *Niagara News* published on Oct. 1, incorrect information was given, on page 7, about the program Jennifer Beatty, Student Administration Council president, is in. She is in the Educational Resources and Special Needs program.

It is the policy of the Niagara News to correct errors of fact.

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CAMPUS COVERAGE

Chefs get opportunities beyond cooking

By NATSUKO TAMURA
Staff Writer

For six Cuban chefs, the Niagara region's cuisine is offering an opportunity to expand their professional and personal experiences, including improving their English skills.

The six, from hotels and restaurants in Cuba, are visiting the Niagara region "to get an overview of the industries," says Mark Hand, food and beverage manager at Niagara College's Maid of the Mist Centre in Niagara Falls.

Carolyn Ambrose, an instructor in the English as a Second Language program, had a two-hour English lesson with the Cubans recently. She says, "They're happy, very motivated to learn, and interested in relating to other people."

'They're happy, very motivated to learn, and interested in relating to other people.'
—Carolyn Ambrose

Cuban chefs had a two-hour English lesson with Carolyn Ambrose in S102 Welland campus. From left front, Silvio Fernandez Fernandel, 27, Wilmer Vazquer Ramiree, 30, Israel Gonzadez Fatardo, 34, and Damian Negrin Monzon, 28. From the left in the back, Osvaloo Avila Alpizar, 25, ESL teacher Carolyn Ambrose and Freddy Cruz Almaral Lezcano, 30.

Photo by Natsuko Tamura

The annual Food Festival, held Oct. 2 and 3 in Welland, offered the chefs an opportunity to present a traditional Cuban dish of spiced chicken with black bean rice. They worked with students from the college's Culinary Management program who volunteered their time at the festival.

"We had fun together. They're easy-going," says one of the students.

Asked about the differences in food, Osvaloo Avila Alpizar, 28, from the Bodegon Delos Vinos restaurant in Havana, says they use different spices, such as cumin and coriander, and they do not use honey in dishes, as Canadians do.

'They're laid-back, relaxed and enjoying their lives . . . (they have) no sense of urgency.'
—Sean Wales

He says he can take the experiences back to his country and they will be helpful in dealing with Canadian tourists.

The chefs have experienced various workplaces in Niagara regional restaurants, such as On the Twenty, in Jordan, and Wellington Court Café, in St. Catharines.

Some of the chefs say the experiences have been "fantastic," and the people they met have been nice.

Sean Wales, of St. Catharines, who is a host of the chefs, said he's discovered Cubans are very proud of what they have.

"They're laid-back, relaxed and enjoying their lives," adding they have "no sense of urgency."

Their five-week stay ends on Oct. 24.

Japanese chefs observe restaurants in region

By LISA TAFT
Staff Writer

Japanese chefs are visiting Niagara College as part of the Taste of Canada Mission hosted by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.

On Oct. 1 five prominent Japanese chefs toured the Maid of the Mist Centre in Niagara Falls to observe how Niagara restaurants and Niagara College work together to promote and use regional resources.

The visitors included Akio Kamata, Matsuo Nagasaka, Kenji Sugawara, Miromi Yamada and Masataka Kamiya. They were guided, in part, by Ikuto Taketani, a 21-year-old second year Culinary Management student. The chefs were able to observe the college's training methods as well as the centre's facilities.

The guests were taken on a brief tour of Niagara Falls before going to a lunch prepared by chef Michael Olson at On the Twenty restaurant in Jordan, Ont.

"We're pleased to have the opportunity to communicate with them through food," said Olson.

'We're pleased to have the opportunity to communicate with them through food.'
—Michael Olson

The four-course lunch included seafood terrine and a warm salad, followed by a main course of pork-rack and "Niagara Nut" tart for dessert.

"I am certainly going to make special preparations for them," said Olson, who has worked in Japan, "but we do that for everyone."

Mark Hand, manager of food and beverages services, refers to Olson as "the father of Niagara cuisine."

Olson replies modestly, "There's a lot of people who developed it."

After lunch the Japanese chefs took the opportunity to tour the kitchen at On the Twenty and talk about Canadian food philosophy as well as ingredients and menus.

The final activity on the tour was to travel to the Kingston area.

"This is a first with international chefs through the government," said Hand.

"It would be amazing if the next step would be to send a student to Japan."

Reles elected as Student Administrative Council president at Glendale campus

By ROBERT LAPENSEE
Staff Writer

There's a new Student Administrative Council (SAC) president at Niagara College's Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

The students elected Kevin Reles, 22, of Port Colborne, on Wednesday, in a byelection, held to replace SAC's former president Everett Wright, who chose not to return to Niagara this year.

"It's definitely what I wanted," Reles said on being elected. "It's definitely what I've worked for."

Reles, who was on SAC last year as the vice-president of campus events, received 23 out of 25 votes.

Serge Landry, who was the other candidate, got two votes. Reles, a third-year Business Administration — Operations Management program student, is the SAC representative to the Niagara College Board of Governors.

Tonya Guthrie, SAC vice-president of campus events, said she is pleased with the results.

"I'm really looking forward to working with him. He has a lot of energy. He is capable of becoming the best president this campus has ever seen."

Lou DiMattio, assistant to the director of student services, said she thinks he will do well.

KEVIN RELES

"He's been involved in a lot of student activities."

DiMattio, who works closely with SAC, said she was disappointed with the voter turnout.

"Voter turnout was pitiful."

"It's really too bad," Reles said. "I'd like to bring the numbers up."

Most years, when byelections were held, DiMattio said, voter turnout was between 25 to 28 per cent of the student body. She said she couldn't understand why only 25 people voted.

"I can't explain it. I was prepared for a lot more.

"It was advertised well in the *Niagara News*. The candidates had 20 days to campaign and put up posters.

"Maybe because it was a byelection the students didn't care."

Reles said this lack of school spirit is something he'd like to change.

"Most people aren't aware of what is going on. I'd like to change that.

"I heard some feedback on the election and I heard someone say they didn't know what SAC was. I mean there were a million posters up. It's more than just putting posters up," he said, adding he intends to get the word out and promote the events.

"I'd like to get out and shake some hands."

Food Festival tasty to food fans

By PENNI LAFLEUR
Staff Writer

"The Niagara Experience" could have been a slogan for an attraction at the sixth annual Food Festival in Welland on Oct. 2 and 3, as the international fare was served up at the "Peninsula's Tastiest Party."

Accompanied by five Cuban chefs, students from Niagara College's Culinary Management program at the Maid of the Mist Centre in Niagara Falls served Mojo chicken with black beans and rice, and butternut squash bisque, at an off-campus revenue-generating booth.

Having entered into an international agreement with the company Cubanacan, Niagara College had six Cuban chefs flown in to learn "hands on" with the college students.

As part of the "Niagara experience," and in addition to participating in the Food Festival, the Cubans will spend time with chefs at different restaurants each week to learn menu theory and to "see what we do here in Niagara," said Mark Hand, manager of food and beverage services at the Maid of the Mist Centre.

The list of selected restaurants includes Tradewinds in Fonthill, On The Twenty in Jordan, Wellington Court Café in St. Catharines, Vineland Estates in Vineland, Casa Mia in Niagara Falls, and Queen's Landing in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

"They (the chefs) are here as part of an international agreement to improve their skills and take back new ideas to better service North Americans (who travel to Cuba) and to integrate it into their service," Hand said.

Having been in Canada for 10 days, Osvaloo Avila Alpizar, 25, of Havana City, said he has been a chef for five years and is "enjoying" this opportunity. "Our company (Cubanacan) sent us here to teach as well as to learn."

ACHIEVEMENTS

Administrator receives award of excellence

By CASSANDRA SIMONS
Staff Writer

Sometimes administrators are seen as drab, grey creatures who make our lives challenging. Sometimes they're unsung wonders — that's Hans van der Slagt.

Van der Slagt, vice-president administration, of St. Catharines, was the recipient of this year's annual Niagara College Award of Excellence for administration.

These awards are presented annually, in early September, to one member of the faculty, the support staff and the administration.

Van der Slagt, 56, has been at the college for 20 years. For the first nine years, van der Slagt worked as the dean of business. For five years during that time period he taught accounting as well.

Among van der Slagt's responsibilities are managing financial services, human resources, facilities management, master planning, auxiliary services (book store, residence, child care centre), library and information services.

"My work impacts all campuses, but my main office is at the Welland campus," said van der Slagt.

In past years, van der Slagt said he has spent a considerable amount of time on the "major" Master Plan that led to the new Glendale campus, in Niagara-on-the-Lake. He helped plan and secure the finances for the Maid of the Mist Centre, in Niagara Falls, as well as for all the renovations at the Welland campus. These cost more than $16 million, including the construction of the student residence, the child care centre, and the Skill Centre for Motive Power Training, all in Welland.

"When I came into this position as vice-president administration 11 years ago, there was a major deficit. We've now beaten that down and have a surplus."

Niagara College has a $2.6 million surplus.

He said his favourite reasons he enjoys working at Niagara are seeing "the happy graduates" and watching "people reach their goals and dreams."

"Every year I go to graduation ceremonies to share in that happiness. It's that feeling of accomplishment."

He said the people he works with are "great friends."

"We've worked as a team and accomplished a lot. We are a good college in Ontario, and we've achieved financial stability as well as been physically involved in international ventures to share our expertise with colleagues in China and Vietnam."

Hans van der Slagt, vice-president administration, was the recipient of the Award of Excellence for administration.
Photo by Cassandra Simons

He said what he doesn't like about the college is that colleges are financially "challenged."

"We're funded less than high schools and universities, which means we've had to trim the resources available to students. Ontario college students deserve more than what's given them."

As for the award he received, van der Slagt said, he had been "a little put off," when his boss, Dan Patterson, college president, decided to change the awards ceremony.

"Every year we hold a ceremony called 'Welcome Back Breakfast,' and I manage the whole thing."

Van der Slagt said he presents the awards every year.

"This year Dan Patterson told me I was only giving one award out and that the other two would be given out by someone else."

He said that every year he had had fun handing out the awards.

"Whining, griping and complaining, I liked to remind everyone I was in the running. I even told my wife I was annoyed. I was totally surprised. I'd had no idea I'd won the award."

Martha Casson, vice-president of the Enterprise and Service Development Division, presented van der Slagt with the award.

"He is a consummate administrator who has provided nearly a quarter century of solid dedicated service to Niagara College," Casson said, at the ceremony attended by about 500 college employees. His attention to detail is "legendary."

"He has helped guide the college through thick and thin."

Casson said van der Slagt used his financial skills to lessen the budget constraints and to achieve the financial status the college has now.

"A compassionate and caring individual, he is, above all, a leader who supports and encourages others to be the best they can be.

"A former teacher and dean, he has never lost his focus on student success, which remains the motivation for all he does at Niagara College."

Canada's new Governor General has been sworn in

First member of a minority to hold the position of Governor General

By TARA PURPURA
Staff Writer

Adrienne Clarkson was sworn in as Canada's 26th Governor General on Oct. 7, the first immigrant and member of a visible minority to hold the post.

Governor General of Canada Romeo LeBlanc retired on that day, as he had announced earlier this year.

As the Queen's representative he has held his office for almost five years. During this time he had maintained the two qualities with which he accepted his appointment in his installation speech in 1995: humility and pride.

As the first Maritimer and Acadian named to the post, LeBlanc was best known for praising Canadians and recognizing their special achievements.

"If I am to be known for anything, I would like it to be for encouraging Canadians, for knowing a little bit about their daily, extraordinary courage," he said in his Installation speech given on Feb. 8, 1995.

Clarkson, a non-politically affiliated and popular Canadian personality, will step into the $102,700 job and move from her Yorkville, Ont., home to the residence at Rideau Hall in Ottawa. "I am very honoured to be the first woman of neither founding nation to be Governor General of Canada. It has deep meaning for me," said Clarkson.

Queen Elizabeth II appointed Clarkson at the request of Prime Minister Jean Chrétien on Sept. 8.

In a press release Chrétien said her appointment reflects the diversity of Canadian society and is an indication of how Canada has matured.

The role of the Queen's representative is a point of contention for many. Bloc Quebecois Leader Gilles Duceppe said the post "has no sense today" and is an honourary role that the "Bloc believes should be abolished."

Despite the opinions of Duceppe and others with similar views, Clarkson will fill the post of governor general.

In his installation speech, LeBlanc may have predicted the appointment of the next Governor General: "They (Canadians) bring to us an incredible richness of tradition and culture creating a unique Canadian mosaic that is a good example to the world."

Fort Erie man given the Niagara College faculty Award of Excellence

Peers honour colleague for his dedication to college, students

By CASSANDRA SIMONS
Staff Writer

The co-ordinator of the Autobody and Collision Damage Repairer — Apprenticeship program, Dave Spear, 58, of Fort Erie, won the Niagara College faculty Award of Excellence for this year.

Spear received the award at the annual Welcome Back Breakfast, in early September. Spear was nominated by his peers, who sent his name into a nomination committee. For receiving the honour, he obtains a trophy, a free parking spot for the year and business cards with a gold band and an inscription to acknowledge the award.

"Dave exemplifies quality teaching through and through," said Bonnie Rose, the college's vice-president academic, as she remembered the words from the nomination form.

"He attends to every detail of the learning process with constant attention to students' needs to help them learn what's hindering them from learning. Students' success is uppermost in everything he does."

In past years, Spear has spent a lot of time "pushing" to get the Skill Centre for Motive Power Training for the Welland campus.

DAVE SPEAR

Spear has spent the last 20 years working for Niagara College in the motor skill area in various buildings, including the old Wellandvale campus in St. Catharines.

He owns Dave Spear Ltd. in Fort Erie, an automotive service centre.

"It has been in my family for four generations," said Spear.

In the last year and a half, Spear participated in the development of the apprenticeship curriculum. As a result, he is "highly" respected in the field and by "the industry and his peers across the province."

'He is a very dedicated teacher. In my opinion he is an excellent teacher. Spear is a born teacher' — Bonnie Rose

Spear provided academic leadership and vision to the development of "our unique skill centre . . . He spent long hours marshalling industry support leading to substantial financial contributions," said Rose.

Spear organized the school's "participation/hosting" of a Skills Olympics and organized the hosting of the provincial professional development for teachers of motor skills across the province.

"He is a team player — very much a team player," said Rose. "He is an enterprising thinker, (and) always has new ideas. He is a very dedicated teacher. In my opinion he is an excellent teacher. Spear is a born teacher."

PROFILES

Second-year student shows his electricity

JAY MILO
Photo by Jennifer Atanas

By JENNIFER ATANAS
Staff Writer

Jay Milo, 19, of Thorold, is dancing his way through school.

Milo, a second-year student in the Art Design Fundamentals – Graphic Design Production program, said the program is "challenging," but he is "very happy" with the results of his first year.

Having achieved an average of 80 per cent at the end of second term, Milo said college art is "a lot harder than high school."

"There are more deadlines, and five projects are assigned each week," Milo said. "There is a lot more pressure this year." He said he must deal with not only the pressures of school, but also family, money and work.

Although working is part of the stress, he said it takes his mind off his other worries and acts as an escape from the real world.

Recently Milo auditioned for, and was accepted by, Electric Circus, a music and dance program hosted by Much Music. The show airs live on Citytv every Friday night. He said he was given the number for the show by a talent scout.

Milo said he, along with his two best friends, has become "one of the most popular dancers on the show."

Many jobs, like working on music videos and dancing at clubs, have come from Electric Circus, said Milo. He recently danced at the Much Music awards and mingled with such celebrities as David Bowie, Seth Green and Paul Stanley.

"I absolutely love the limelight. It has always been me to draw attention to myself."

Looking forward to Fridays when he can hop on a bus to Toronto to dance at the club named Berlin keeps him sane, he said.

He said he never thought anything would ever come from his dancing, but in 10 years he hopes to be recognized for something else. "I hope to be making a difference in the area of art."

He said the thing he enjoys most is watching as he develops at school and as a person.

"Watching myself, my personality and what I believe in, and by meeting new people, talking to different people and listening to their ideas about situations – tend to change you a little bit."

Milo said there are stresses in his life, but he'll always continue to apply himself, adding he credits his girlfriend, who has helped him a lot, for that.

Whether he makes it through art or dance, he said, he'll be a noticeable figure in the future secure in his life.

Niagara College wins heart of new teacher

By TRACEY ALLISON
Staff Writer

Experience is a good teacher. Mick Riddle has it, and he is.

Riddle, 48, of Thorold, Ont., is a new member of Niagara College's faculty.

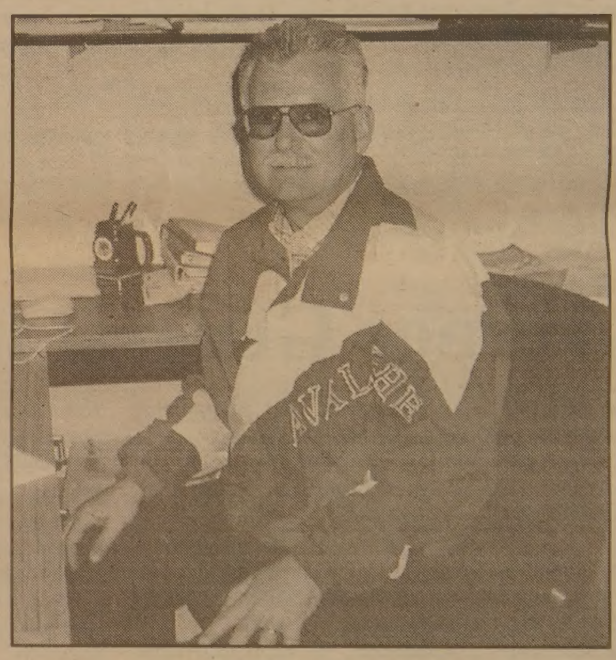
Riddle is a full-time professor in the Police Foundations and Law and Security programs, and this is his first time as a full-time teacher.

However, he has done some teaching in the college's Continuing Education division, at the Ontario Police College, at the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) Academy and with the Niagara Regional Police (NRP).

Riddle decided to teach "so that 29 years of police experience would not go to waste." He said he'd like to pass that information along to those wanting to pursue that career.

Some of Riddle's policing experience includes working in the NRP's Criminal Investigation Branch from 1979 to 1987, except for one year from 1984 to 1985. He worked as unit supervisor for the Criminal Intelligence Unit from 1987 to 1992. He then was a member of the Green Ribbon Task Force, a provincially funded investigative task force that investigated the murders of Leslie Mahaffy and Kristin French, from 1992 to 1994.

He was chosen for his past criminal investigative experience to work in the Major Crime Unit from 1994 to 1996. Riddle was also involved in the Violent Crime Linkage Analysis System process from 1993 to 1999 as unit co-ordinator.



MIKE RIDDLE
Photo by Tracey Allison

On Sept.1 Riddle retired from the police force and recently celebrated at his retirement dinner, which he said went "very well."

Riddle said he chose the policing field because his father was a police officer for 27 years, and he has "always had an interest in working with the public."

Riddle says he enjoys the outdoors.

"I do a lot of fishing and camping and I love to escape to the country to get away from the city whenever I can."

Riddle has been a coach for hockey, baseball and soccer to children ages seven to 12. He is married and has a 15-year-old son and 14-year-old twin daughters.

Riddle said he is happy to be at the college.

"I love teaching here. The school is great."

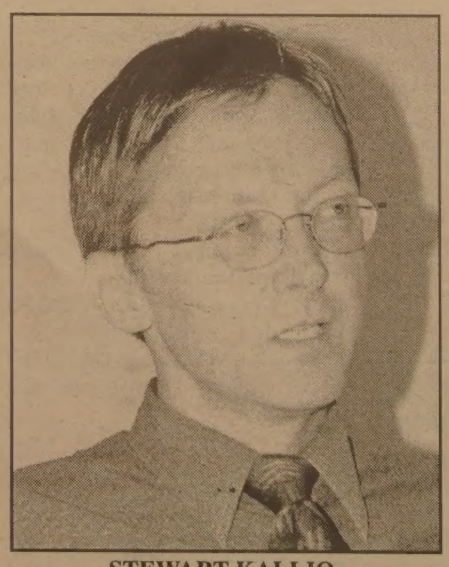
He said his goals are "to contribute to the team effort, which is required to promote Police Foundations and Law and Security across the province, to work in a close relationship in the police partnership between the NRP and the college, and to foster a positive relationship between the students and the faculty in a team effort."

Niagara was Riddle's first choice because, he said, "Niagara is where my heart is, because I live here and also feel I can be a great contribution to the police partnership."

Riddle has a number of commendations from the NRP. Most recently he received the Chief of Police Award for 1998.

"One of my greatest achievements, having spent 29 years in policing, [is] being able to leave that and come here and share my experience to teach anyone interested in entering the field of law enforcement."

New Chair discovers a welcoming college



STEWART KALLIO
Photo by Leigh Beihl

By LEIGH BEIHL
Staff Writer

Stewart Kallio, chair of Niagara College's School of General and Preparatory Studies, takes people production very seriously.

"Colleges are very good at developing vocational skills, but we need also to develop a broad base of skills and interests to balance it," says Kallio. "Education shouldn't just make people productive — it should make people aware, participating citizens."

General and Preparatory Studies, encompassing the General Arts and Science program, Health Science Preparatory and Basic Literacy Skills, "seeps into every part of the college."

The program provides specific background for some courses, diversity for others and a general variety for students unsure which area of study they wish to pursue.

Even with this level of integration Kallio says he would like to see the program develop a stronger profile with staff and students as a means to providing a greater mix of courses. "We're very dependent on the other programs and how they develop," says Kallio, adding the college's staff is highly capable of running with an idea once the process of building a course is in place.

"My job is to stay out of people's way. I provide the framework and let them go to it."

"I would love to offer 12 courses a semester and have students struggle to select just one, rather than have them think, 'Ugh, do I have to take that?'" says Kallio. I'd love to offer one in pop music, the themes and expressions of different decades. What a great way to study social history and cultural trends."

Kallio came to Niagara College this February with 13 years teaching and administrative experience from Cambrian College in Sudbury. He holds a BA in fine arts and an MA in community college education and is currently working on his PhD at the University of Toronto.

"I promised myself a PhD if the opportunity came up before I was 50. It did," says Kallio, who otherwise did not disclose his age.

The college's reputation played an important part in Kallio's choosing to apply here, and now that he has arrived, he says there have been no disappointments.

"This is a great place. I found it to be very welcoming. I was immediately accepted as a part of the team, with something to contribute.

"The staff is very strong and committed and they have a very special dynamic among themselves and with their students. Being connected is important. Knowing the people you work with, knowing the students, pro-acting on contentious issues — this is how we make better people out of all of us."

PROFILES

Graduate helps others through perseverance

By JAMIE WHITE
Staff Writer

Niagara College graduate Greg Lidstone is working towards opening his own financial planning firm.

Lidstone, 40, of Niagara Falls, graduated from the two-year Social Service Worker program at the Welland campus. He continued his education at Niagara University, in Lewiston, N.Y., completing his bachelor's degree in social work.

Lidstone says he started out operating a privately owned group home for high-risk, troubled children. He says he worked in this field for many years until government funding was being phased out of privately owned institutions and being concentrated mainly in larger jail facilities. Lidstone says he had a choice to make: move to a larger jail facility, or start a new career.

Lidstone says he decided on a new career.

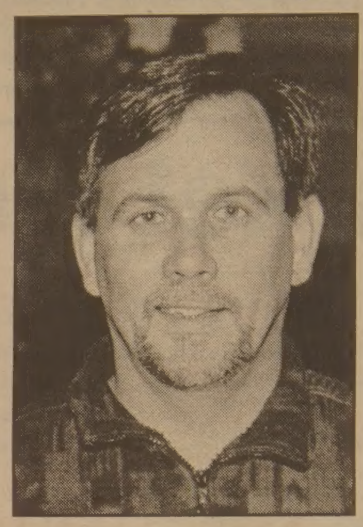
He began working for Investors Group and stayed with that organization for two years, Lidstone says, before he decided to go off on his own.

Lidstone is a financial adviser working now with Associate Financial Planners Wealth Management, a financial planning firm. The firm is designed to help people handle their finances in such areas as mortgages, insurance, mutual funds, RRSPs, divorce settlements and GICs. He is working from a home office and an office in Oakville.

'You have to have a lot of perserverance and be honest and trustworthy.' —Greg Lidstone

Lidstone says he is working towards opening his own firm in Niagara-on-the-Lake, where he will take the position of branch manager and oversee the office and other financial advisers.

While he has already received his mutual fund license, insurance license and labour sponsor license, Lidstone has yet to complete his branch manager's license, which, he says, he hopes to receive by November. This license is required for him to be a branch manager.



GREG LIDSTONE

Asked what the best part of his job is, Lidstone says it's the people. "I meet a lot of really neat people."

He says he works with many people from throughout the community such as teachers, professors and others employed in a classroom atmosphere. This creates a common element as he can relate his experience with children.

"You have to have a lot of perseverance and be honest and trustworthy," which, Lidstone says, are important when working with other people's money.

'I dislike the thought that financial advisers don't have a conscience sometimes.' — Greg Lidstone

Lidstone says he dislikes the reputation financial advisers have.

"I dislike the thought that financial advisers don't have a conscience sometimes."

He says financial advisers are often thought to be more motivated by their commission cheques than by the best interest of their clients.

"People forget whose money it is," Lidstone says, adding advisers and clients often have different expectations which causes problems.

"I think the majority of financial advisers are ethical."

Lidstone says in his career he has ample opportunity to give back to the community, which he does through sponsoring groups and organizations.

He says his job is all about building relationships and "bridging the community."

Lidstone says his job becomes difficult when the market "takes a dive."

He says managing people's portfolios and trying to make them understand the market and its cycles are often difficult tasks.

It is difficult when a financial adviser doesn't take care of his or her clients and doesn't communicate with them, Lidstone says.

He avoids this by producing a newsletter for his clients, hosting seminars, and keeping in touch with them on a regular basis.

Lidstone says he enjoys his job.

"Absolutely, 100 per cent. It's the best thing I could do."

Students gain networking, job skills

By MEGAN ROSS
Staff Writer

Networking and job experience are two of the top benefits students receive from their studies in the two-year Computer Programmer and three-year Computer Programmer/Analyst programs at Niagara College.

In both cases, students apply the theory and practical lab experience in real-world situations.

Peter Vanscoy, program co-ordinator, said third-year students in their final term design programs to help companies in the community.

The requests come from companies and businesses throughout the Niagara region.

When a company approaches the college, the faculty offers, or assigns, a student, or students, with the required skills to complete the task. These projects give students "very valuable experience, because not only do they now have experience . . . it also gives them contacts," said Vanscoy.

The Computer Programmer /Analyst program runs two years, with an option for a third year. In the third year, the students have a paid summer co-op placement and then a specialized fifth term.

In the sixth term, students are involved in extensive real-world projects. This opportunity lets the students set higher goals.

Very valuable experience

"It's not a co-op," said Vanscoy, adding, "What we're doing is trying to get everything they (the students) have learned over the past couple of years, (to use) as experience."

For example, in previous years, students have created databases for a food bank in the region and have done internal computer work for Niagara College.

Vanscoy has worked as a consultant/analyst in computer technologies for various businesses in the Niagara region for the past eight years, including teaching in the computer field.

He graduated from Niagara College with his Business Administration — Information Systems diploma and is always upgrading this skill in leading edge technologies. He is an active consultant in the business community, and he networks to stay current in the field, he said.

Colombian principals explore Niagara

Phyllis Barnatt, (at right), Journalism-Print program co-ordinator, shows the Colombian high school principals the *Niagara News* MacLab (S213) on Sept. 29.

Photo by Natsuko Tamura

By NATSUKO TAMURA
Staff Writer

Niagara College is hosting 18 Colombian principals who are sharing their experiences with college personnel.

The principals are from Bogota, Colombia, and have been visiting here since Sept. 18.

The major purpose of their visit is to get computer training. The group is staying at bed and breakfast homes in St. Catharines.

The principals have had some classes at the Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake in management training and new technology.

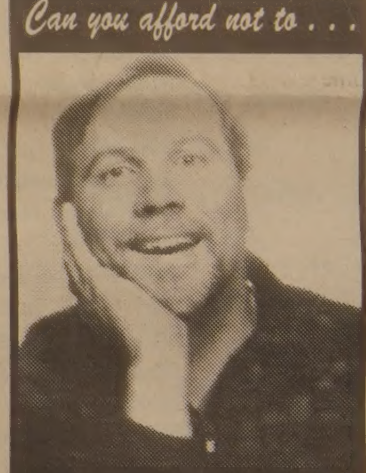
They toured the Welland campus on Sept. 29 with translator Luisa Hernandz, a graduate of the college's International Trade program.

The group visited the Broadcasting — Radio, Television and Film program and the Journalism-Print program.

David Montealegre, the principal of Asesor Academico, says there is no college system in Colombia.

The principals return to Colombia on Oct. 16.

Can you afford not to . . .



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EDITORIAL

The Niagara News is a practical lab for the Journalism-Print program, covering the college community and other areas of interest.
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Market Bull

What goes up must come down.

While this principle applies equally to physics and market economics, it comes as no surprise that the world's financial gurus count on suspending our disbelief.

Fiction is, after all, what's needed to keep nervous investors from flinching. Even as global stock values continue to climb to stratospheric heights, most media outlets serve only to echo the generally accepted forecast that the good times will continue — perhaps forever — if no one panics.

Few are saying what needs to be said.

Simply stated, this "don't worry; be happy" attitude coming out of Toronto, New York, Tokyo and all the other capitals of capital is — like the market itself — bull.

Mega-mergers, rampant speculation, unprecedented consumer debt and falling commodity prices are just a few of the signs that point to a different future.

In some instances, companies with inflated stock prices, most notably in the technology sector, are making billionaires out of their owners even though the company hasn't turned one penny in profit.

Still, the members of our financial community reject even the suggestion that our ballooning economy may soon burst.

History tells us they won't admit it even when it happens.

As is being done now, the esoteric jargon of high finance will be invoked to confuse our perceptions.

In stages it will be called a "blip" or "correction," later a "downturn," only reluctantly a "recession." None will dare to utter the d-word.

Call it what they might, it will come as a thief in the night.

Alarmist? Perhaps.

In view of the consequences, however, we must not underestimate the gravity of the situation.

Governments everywhere have made cuts to the very social programs designed to soften the blow of future economic punches. With every dollar redirected to tax relief, we find ourselves less and less prepared to deal with the inevitable.

Ironically, the globalization of capital has further weakened the power of the state to intervene, even when it chooses to do so. Our leaders seem content to sit on the sidelines and watch.

The whole thing is a high-wire act, only this time there may not be a safety net to break the fall.

John Robbins

Sifting through the dregs

Public opinion polls have a special level of dregs for politicians. They finish lower than the lawyers, the used-car salesmen, and yes, even the journalists.

Perhaps this is why there is so little outcry about the province's call to eliminate the municipal level of government. Cutting back on politicians seems fair retribution for the cutbacks that have felled schools and hospitals and homes.

Somehow it is not relevant that the politicians being eliminated are not the ones whose drive for efficiency took these facilities. Nor is it the politicians with big salaries, bottomless expense accounts or fat pensions. It's the politicians who look after our local issues in the evenings after work, the politicians who live in our neighbourhoods, the politicians who, in some cases, saved schools and hospitals and homes. These are the ones who are going.

If we are to believe the Harris government, the removal of this most accessible level of government will increase efficiency. Of course it will. But for whom?

Efficient democracy is an oxymoron. Efficient government needs only one voice. Democracy needs many.

Removing elected representatives in a democratic system is like funneling salt through a straw. It's not impossible, but it's not efficient either. Unless you don't want the salt in the shaker.

Leigh Beihl

Your voice or opinion is welcome in our Letters to the Editor section. Our policy regarding letter submissions is this:
All letters must be received on the Friday one week prior to publication. Each letter must include the writer's name, college identification number and program of study. All letters must be signed and include a day and evening telephone number for verification use only. All letters can be mailed or brought to the Niagara News newsroom, Room S212, Simcoe Building, Welland campus.

COMMENTARY

Election not likely until 2001

By RAM KRISHNAMURTHY
Staff Writer

We still have some time before the next federal election. After all, it isn't likely until the summer of 2001.

However, if you want to be the political prognosticator, I truly believe you will have a tough time convincing yourself that anybody other than the federal Liberals will be the party to come out on top again.

Prime Minister Jean Chrétien and his Liberals are more than halfway through their second mandate to govern Canada. It appears no opposition party has what it takes to defeat them. This is the Liberals' second consecutive majority government. This mandate gives them a great deal of leverage over the opposition.

Not everything is perfect, but no government at any time can be totally perfect.

The opposition in Ottawa is weak. The Reform Party, the official opposition, along with its leader Preston Manning, has struck out twice in previous federal elections, while the Progressive Conservatives were just able to put themselves on the map in the last election with official party status.

Of course, it was party status the Tories lost in 1993 when they were simply destroyed. Let's not forget the New Democratic Party (NDP) and the Bloc Quebecois, also in the House of Commons.

It seems nobody is listening to them, a situation which really comes as no surprise because they don't seem to know what they're talking about. I make that statement about the NDP and Bloc only because election after election these two parties don't have any kind of substance with which to be competitive.

Canada is in good shape. No, everything isn't perfect, but no government at any time can be totally perfect. From an economic, medical, educational and cultural standpoint, the situation in this country is looking good, and the Liberals are doing the job. That's why they keep winning majority governments.

Just take a good look at what we have as far as the opposition goes. We have Manning, a politician who epitomizes the word radical and takes things well off the right-hand side of the political spectrum. Is radical change something this country needs? The Conservatives were once a highly respected party, though the question will be, can party leader Joe Clark lead his party to a victory?

If you see Clark speak, you might wonder if this guy has enough charisma to be prime minister.

Whether you like Chrétien or not, he certainly does not lack charisma.

Let's face it: charisma can keep things interesting. I don't know if Clark knows the meaning of the word.

I wonder if the NDP or Bloc can

Let's face it: charisma can make things interesting.

be interesting enough to keep their own family members awake.

When you examine all the factors and everyone involved, you can bet on the Liberals in the next election.

Something always seems to go wrong

By MIRANDA HUBBS
Staff Writer

Murphy's law strikes again!

What can go wrong will go wrong. Just when you think things are finally going right, something always has to go wrong. This is the case with me.

I just made the women's basketball team here at Niagara College and before we've even played a game, injuries have plagued the team.

I say this sitting here with ice on both ankles and knees. I don't know how I did it, but it figures. Somehow I damaged my knees and ankles, leaving me unable to do any strenuous activity. Things like this always happen to me. I'm finally getting comfortable with the team, and have slightly improved the way I play. Bam! This happens.

The doctor I saw on Oct. 6 said I have something I can't even pronounce, but that it's not serious and I can still play in the upcoming tournament. Thank God! I was so worried that I was at the end before I had started.

I'm not the only one who is injured. There's someone else who is worse off than I am, but no one is seriously hurt (knock on wood!). If more of us were to get hurt we wouldn't have much of a team left.

In my last column I said that playing sports is a good way to make friends. Well, I am making friends; I like the girls I play with and the coaches. I can see we will have fun this season, but let's hope nothing else goes wrong!

As dumb as this might sound, it's true.

I'm tellin' ya, Murphy is really starting to annoy me. I wish those laws would leave me alone and pick on someone else. For those who seem to have the same problem, I know where you're coming from.

Warning to all students

By SHANNON MASTALER
Staff Writer

This is a warning to all students who have received Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP) loans — BEWARE!

It's hard to imagine you can spend thousands of dollars over eight months.

It's hard to imagine you can spend thousands of dollars over eight months. You may think when your OSAP money comes in, it won't run out, but it usually does.

Figuring out what your total expenses are and whether you have enough money to pay for them can put the brakes on your unrestrained spending.

What most students don't realize is OSAP covers school expenses, and not much else.

"I put my trust in OSAP. I *shouldn't have, but I thought* they would give me enough money so I could spend some and still be able to pay for my bills," said Theresa Tamburro, 18, of Ajax, Ont., and a former student of Niagara College. "I was wrong."

Before going to school, you should know OSAP isn't overly generous with its loans. False expectations will lead to financial disappointment. If possible, you should save money before going to school.

"By the end of my first semester of college, I couldn't pay my bills. Then when I got my second installment of OSAP, I paid them off," said Tamburro. "As soon as I knew it, I was struggling again."

One solution to making the money last may be to set up an account from which you pay only your bills. By doing this, you may have more money at the end of the year.

Travelling gets expensive because of gas and cabs.

Since Welland doesn't have many sources of entertainment, you may have to go to St. Catharines or Niagara Falls for fun.

Travelling gets expensive because of gas and cabs. These expenses can be cut in half by car pooling or sharing a cab.

Money goes fast when you have a large sum of it, and especially when you have no one telling you to watch your money.

By not spending your money carelessly, school may be a lot less stressful, making your first year of college a happy one.

Education isn't just for the rich anymore

By MANDI SPEELMAN
Staff Writer

Hey, you people in the government, listen up. Education isn't just for the rich anymore.

If the government wants us to turn into educated, law-abiding citizens, it can start by making education affordable to young people.

When it comes time to graduate, I want to focus on finding the job for which I went to school. I don't want to have to worry about how I'm going to pay off the loan I so "generously" received from the government.

It isn't easy for those who have just graduated and are looking for jobs. I know many people who

Everything should be less expensive

have received all sorts of degrees from universities and have been working for quite some time at McDonald's or at a grocery store to pay off their loans.

A friend of mine will have to pay about $44,000 at the end of her four-year Astronomy program at York University, in Toronto. She'll be paying it off until she retires. With some jobs paying minimum wage, students wanting to buy a new car or move out on their own are just dreaming.

The Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP) is a helpful way of getting yourself through college. It's the government's "Jekyll and Hyde" way of helping students get their education. The government will tell you, "Sure, go to school for four years, on us. Just be ready to pay us back in a minimal amount of time, plus interest."

Obviously the government must understand students can't find a good job overnight and pay it all off with just one paycheque.

It really gets to me when students have to scratch and save their money in order to make it through their first year, while prisoners receive a free education paid for by our taxes.

How about those students who don't want OSAP and can't afford their tuition? I don't like the fact that some parents are paying for their children's college fees. I really feel sorry for those parents who wasted their money by having their children discover they don't want to be in school.

Everything should be less expensive, and education should not be for the blessed few that can afford college. Post-secondary education should be a place where all can go and learn, without being worried about the financial burden that ultimately follows.

I think in order to solve some of these problems, companies should give students a helping hand by hiring them. I know long-term employees at these companies don't want to be laid off to make room for new people, but we have got to start somewhere. Maybe then we could afford paying off our loan more quickly. Instead of having so many academic dropouts, we'll have people working at a job for which they went to school. The government should pay attention to us. After all, we are the future.

COMMENTARY

Pull me over, but don't make me laugh

By LEIGH BEIHL
Staff Writer

Well, they finally caught me.

I wasn't sure for what; by the time I noticed the OPP lights swirling in my rearview mirror I was off the QEW, restored to civilization and driving with the utmost responsibility. No more travelling in the passing lane, passing in the travelling lane or travelling while passing the speed of sound. No siree.

Being an OPP vehicle, however, the possibility loomed large that he followed me off the highway. I wondered, briefly, if I had been moving fast enough to miss the sound of the siren. I wondered if he was allowed to shoot me for making him chase me.

I handed him my organ donor card just in case.

He stoically responded to my stupidity by requesting my license, registration and insurance.

Of course. I knew that. I handed them over while he asked in his official police business voice if I knew why he had pulled me over.

Ha! Like I'd fall for that old ploy. Besides, I had no clue.

"No, sir," I replied.

He waved my insurance slip. "This expired three days ago."

I did not actually hear the noise I made, but it was the sound of a person who left the new insurance slip on her desk when she wrote the premium cheque and was now imagining writing a cheque for the $5,000 fine for driving without insurance. The officer flinched.

I blithered out something that resembled an explanation, amazed that he could tell I was carrying a dated slip from his car. The officer nodded politely.

I blithered out something that resembled an explanation, amazed that he could tell I was carrying a dated slip from his car.

"You cut me off," he said.

Both the blithering and my heart stopped simultaneously. I cut off an OPP cruiser.

"On the off-ramp. It merges with the service road there. I was coming along and zip! There you were."

"Zip?"

"Zip! If you were moving any slower you would have hit me."

Gulp.

He held his hands about a head width apart. "You were this close."

"This close," I repeated, feeling relieved that he had not been on the highway after all, nor had he previously known that my insurance slip had expired. I was, however, increasingly certain that he might shoot me anyway.

So what was I doing on the off-ramp that I failed to see either the merge or the cruiser merging?

Oh, right. Van Halen. My inspiration for staying above the sound barrier was being frantically jabbed from the tape deck.

I did not offer this explanation. I smiled. I was ready to shoot myself.

"You didn't signal either," He said.

I didn't signal. Me? I signal a bend in the road. I signal in parking lots. I signal in my own driveway. But I didn't signal my lane change while speeding my uninsured vehicle less than a foot in front of an OPP cruiser I didn't see because I was too busy whacking the radio. It was sublime. I had to laugh.

So I did. A big, hearty, belly-shaking, tears-streaming, out-loud laugh. Right in his face. I was dead for sure now.

The officer's eyebrows rocketed between his glasses and the brim of his hat. He looked at my cards again, more carefully this time, as if expecting to find a day-pass from some psychiatric ward. His brows migrated slowly back, leaving furrows that could have been cut by a glacier. "Wait here," he said. I noticed that he did not return my donor card.

I was so dead.

I composed myself while he was gone. He was gone quite a while. Maybe he was looking for the Breathalyzer, or calling for backup. Maybe he was calling the asylum. Or a hearse. It really didn't matter now. I was totally dead.

I was totally dead.

I contemplated how the car would get home and figured it was one of those things that were simply "taken care of."

God, he was gone a long time.

He got out of his car smiling. Whom had he talked to? Did he always smile before shooting someone? I got a cold chill just thinking about it.

He walked to my car while my head filled with the haunting whistle of so many spaghetti westerns. Do you feel lucky, punk? It surprised me the officer was not wearing spurs; I could hear them clicking on the asphalt. He leaned in the window.

"You can go," he said, handing back my cards. "Just a warning to be careful in the future."

You bet! I thought.

"You bet!" I said, thanking my benefactor and starting my car before he had a chance to change his mind. After all, he never did see if my day pass had expired.

I watched the rearview for the swirling lights of the sanatorium ambulance.

Sharing a house works well

By SHANNON MASTALER
Staff Writer

I live in a house with four other girls I met last year while living in Niagara College's residence. I wasn't sure how living together was going to work out, but I must say, I am very happy.

I was close to two of these women last year. They became my good friends quickly when we lived in residence, but you never know how things will be when you're living under one roof with your friends.

They have proven to me they are great to live with, and most important, they are great friends.

The other two I didn't know that well and, consequently, I had some fears about this year.

In spite of these concerns, I am ecstatic. I'm having a great time and we're becoming good friends.

I consider myself extremely fortunate. I live in a beautiful house with four of my closest friends as my roommates. We get along wonderfully with minimal problems.

Last year, living in residence was a good experience.

After all, if it weren't for residence, I wouldn't have met my roommates.

I believe residence is the best place for first-year students to be.

The residence experience gave me a chance to meet many people I normally wouldn't have.

For my second year, my house is perfect. It gives me a sense of independence and responsibility I didn't feel in residence because of all the rules and regulations.

My house is truly home for me. I am thankful to be living here so happily.

I know I will not always get along with my roommates and that there will be a time when we argue.

I also know this year will be filled with fun and excitement, stress and hard work.

Whatever bumps I am thrown while living in my new home, I know I will be thrown an equal amount of good times.

It is going to be a great year with experiences I will never forget.

Proposal changes student's life

By MEGAN ROSS
Staff Writer

My life changed on Sept. 24.

My boyfriend of seven months got down on one knee and asked for my hand in marriage.

Of course, I accepted, with tears in my eyes. Over the next few days, I was shoving the ring in everyone's face.

It's part of my charm. I have never been happier in my life, and I want everyone to know it.

I have a man who loves me and I love him— and that makes me happy.

Oh, it's true, you don't need a man to be happy, but I'm the kind of person who does. Now, I probably have all the feminists rolling their eyes, but I'm not about to quit school and give it all to Steve. We couldn't afford it.

Plus, the engagement gives me revenge upon all the guys I dated last year (not that there were many). They all used me.

I am over it. I have grown up a lot and found true love. They didn't defeat me. They only made me stronger.

Now I can stand up and say, "Hey, you might have screwed me over, but I don't need you. I have someone who loves me and I'm a better person for it."

Of course I didn't imagine when I met a guy eight months ago, from Jarvis, Ont., that I would be marrying him in 2001.

Now I'm looking through bridal magazines, trying to find the perfect dress, one that won't leave me in the poor house.

Planning a wedding is not the easiest thing to do. I know this is going to be the greatest day of my life. Nothing that anyone can say will change that.

OSAP, a disaster waiting to happen

By JENNIFER ATANAS
Staff Writer

Attention, first-year students. You have just received a large amount of money to attend college. This may seem like a blessing, but it is a disaster waiting to happen.

You're registering for programs, paying for school supplies and starting to pay rent with your Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP) money. What could be better? You're living away from home, meeting new people and, to top it off, probably are of legal drinking age.

Drinking can be quite expensive. Drinks may seem cheap, but the cost adds up.

Drinking can be quite expensive. Drinks may seem cheap, but the cost adds up. Then add the cost of a cab to your tab. A cab into St. Catharines or Thorold from Welland costs $20. By now, you've got yourself a pretty costly night out.

Students do not have a care in the world until the second semester, when bills are piling up.

"I wish I would have been more responsible with my money in September," said Theresa Tamburo, a former first-year Correctional Worker program student.

In February or March when the money has run out, it seems as though your freedom has, as well.

Students receiving OSAP can prevent money problems in second semester, but it is going to take willpower and responsibility. Don't go on shopping sprees, because you don't have as much money as you think. Try buying yourself something nice first and second semester, instead of 10 things for each. This will undoubtedly save you some money.

Be responsible with your alcohol money. Never bring your debit card to a bar. Bars do accept them but using one is a fast way of spending a lot of money in a short time.

Try listening to your parents when they tell you to "take care of your money, because you have to pay it all back in the future." It may sound nagging and repetitive, but it is true.

HEALTH

Healthier alternatives can help balance life

By MANDI SPEELMAN
Staff Writer

It's all in the ch'i.

Pauline Raby instructs feng shui at Niagara College and the "it" she speaks of means energy.

Raby, of Welland, a feng shui consultant, walked over to a corner of the room and said, "It's like a finger pointing at you. If I was to stand here pointing my finger at you, do you see what it's doing to you? It's like an intimidating gaze.

"If we can see energy move, you can see the ch'i coming out of my fingertip. Same thing is happening with this corner. Energy enters this room, swirls around and shoots right out of the room like a pointed arrow," she said. "It's what we call negative ch'i, so if you sit in that corner for any length of time, eventually you might get a kink in your neck or back, and you will have no idea what is causing this discomfort."

Raby said, it's "good" to make your room look circular by placing objects diagonally in corners. The energy tends to circulate freely around the room.

Feng shui began in China about 3,000 years ago. It was used for creating a balanced environment for people in which to live and work.

She said there are 18 people in the class at Niagara. "Word is spreading and it is becoming more known. More people and students come up to me and say, 'I just picked up a book on this stuff and I don't even know how to pronounce it. It looks like fun and looks interesting.'"

Raby said, as a general rule, people are in a position to make decisions about their health. "People are becoming more holistic and more natural in their approach in trying to heal themselves. I find that those in the medical profession are beginning to look at our environment for more clues as to what is causing ill health in so many ways."

April Waite, 18, of Caistorville, reads her magazine as she relaxes in her feng shui-based living room, with her plants settled in the corner.

Photo by Mandi Speelman

For example, ceiling fans can be a problem, said Raby.

"I've done a lot of consultations where they are right above people's beds. A lot of them (clients) are experiencing leg and foot problems. Those blades are right over their legs and distribute energy that spirals down at them. This grinding energy feels heavy upon their heads."

She said it's important to figure out what we need to do to enhance the space we're living in.

"We must eliminate the effects of these things that can influence our health to the point of creating cancers, because we're exposed to the radiation emitted by our computers and cell phones. There are certain plants and certain fabrics that create toxins, whereas other plants pick up toxins, like peace lilies."

Benefits from feng shui include better health and a greater sense of well being, said Chris Shaul, a feng shui adviser from Burbank, Calif., in an e-mail response.

"Feng shui is an environmental study. There is no mysticism, superstition or other nonsense about it. If it doesn't sound right, it probably isn't."

Shaul said he consulted a lady who had Parkinson's disease. She recommended that the woman move her bed to a different area and add the element of water near her bed. A couple of months after the consultation, the woman was sleeping better and her disease was not bothering her as much.

"The place we spend the most time uninterrupted is going to be the place that is going to affect us the most. One-third of our lives is spent in our bedrooms. Make sure your bed is solid, and there's nothing underneath or around it," said Raby adding, "People wonder why they can't have a relationship when there's old love letters stuffed between their mattresses."

Raby advises people to position their bed in a way that they can see without turning their head toward anyone entering the room. It shouldn't be placed against the window, since the opening allows ch'i to escape. Anything that is plugged in, like a heating blanket, takes its toll on the body. She said, it "truly affects your sleep, longevity and health."

For those who don't have time to rearrange furniture, repairing a door creak or a dripping faucet will banish negative ch'i.

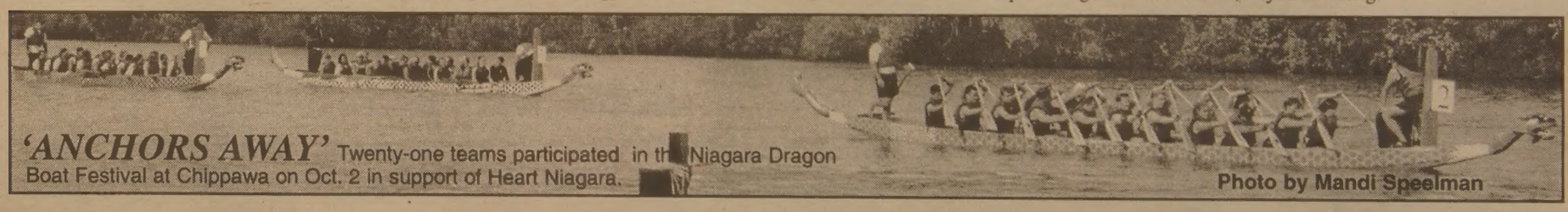
"Feng shui has to do with everything from textures of curtains and upholstery, to the paint on your walls."

In a living room, green is a "really good colour — it's relaxing and encourages communication." In a bedroom, you want something like pink or peach, which stands for romance and happiness, she added.

"Make sure there is a plant in every room along with quartz crystals hanging around. They have the ability and the power to move the energy away and to absorb, to release and to scatter it. Keep them close to your environment, especially when you're working near a lot of electrical output. You really need to protect yourself."

She said it's "good if you find a good consultant." If you don't have enough money to do the whole thing right away you can work it out over a certain period of time.

"I had read about it in an article and have a friend who tried it and told me how it worked for her," said Jean Waite, a convenience-store owner in Caistorville. "She gave me some easy pointers on creating good ch'i around the house. I put a little water fountain in my kitchen along with having plants everywhere. They give out oxygen and seem to suck in all the bad energy of the room. I do believe it works if you know what you're doing."



'ANCHORS AWAY' Twenty-one teams participated in the Niagara Dragon Boat Festival at Chippawa on Oct. 2 in support of Heart Niagara.

Photo by Mandi Speelman

Use your sweet tooth to save your kidneys; candy sales aid research

By CASSANDRA SIMONS
Staff Writer

Halloween is a fun time of the year and can be used to help organizations around the world raise funds.

Among those who benefit is the Kidney Foundation of Canada, which raises funds to assist people with kidney diseases.

Bill Auchterlonie, development manager of the Niagara District Chapter of the foundation, says the incidence of kidney disease is rapidly growing.

"There are many different kinds of kidney diseases," says Auchterlonie.

Kidneys filter out impurities and toxins from blood, but if your kidneys suffer from a disease they can fail.

If this happens, you can be put on dialysis, a process that mechanically cleanses and re-circulates the blood, or, in more serious cases, you may need a kidney transplant.

Raising funds through candy sales helps further the research in the disease.

"We're selling bags of Lifesaver lollipops, peanuts and gumdrops for $3 a bag," says Auchterlonie.

Last year the foundation raised nearly $20,000. This year the foundation has set its goal higher.

"This year we bought just a little over $20,000 worth of candy to sell and we're hoping to sell all of it."

There are "a lot of volunteers" who help with fund-raisers along with about 600 people who are in the Niagara District Chapter.

"A lot of people use the bags they buy for candy to give away on Halloween."

Auchterlonie says half of the money raised here will go to the National Foundation of Canada, which then decides how to disperse it.

The other half stays at the Niagara District Chapter to be used for raising awareness as well as transportation of patients to dialysis sessions.

"A lot of people who have kidney disease can't drive to Hotel Dieu Hospital in St. Catharines for their treatments, so we cover the costs."

The top seller will win the use of a Volkswagen Beetle for the weekend.

If you are interested in participating in this fund-raiser, contact the Foundation office at 183 King St., St. Catharines, or call 641-8771 for more information.

Getting flu shot will prevent that achy, stuffy, awful feeling

Influenza is on its way here.

In preparation for an early "influenza A" season this year, the Regional Niagara Public Health Department is setting up flu clinics.

Anyone who is 65 years of age or older, or those with a poor immune system or a chronic medical condition, such as bronchitis, emphysema, heart disease, diabetes, kidney disease or cancer, are advised to get their shot.

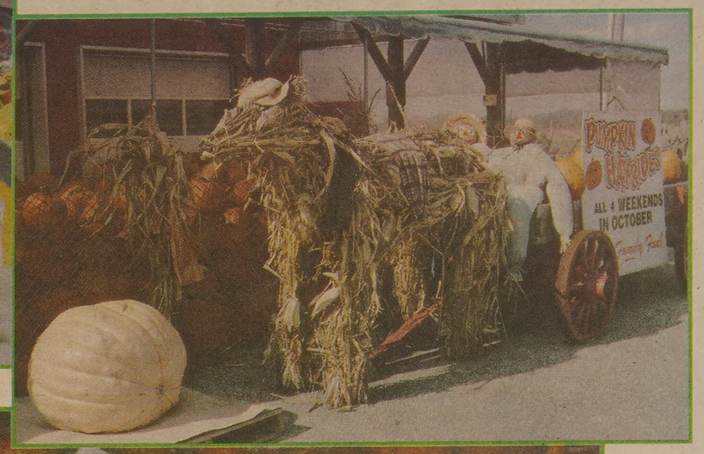
Staff and residents of long-term care facilities are being vaccinated.

It is recommended that people who have regular close contact with those in high-risk groups and workers who provide essential services visit their family doctor to receive their influenza vaccination.

For more information contact Karen Chudzik, manager of the infectious disease program, at the Public Health Department, Region Niagara (905) 688-3762 ext. 329 or 1-800-263-7248 ext. 329.

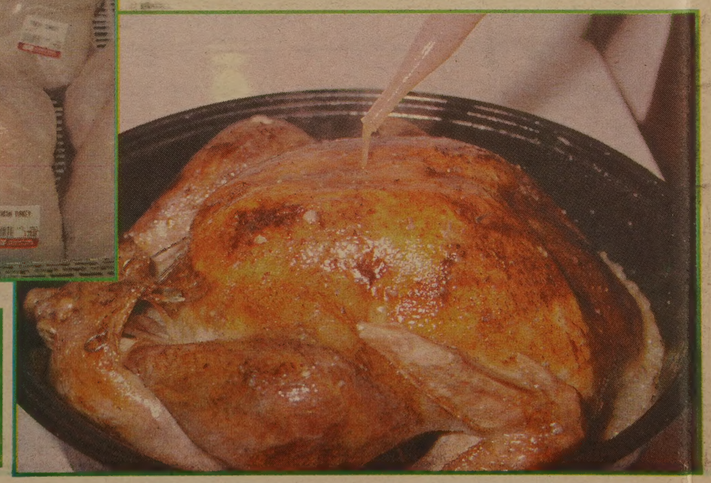
Above, left - Bright colours abound around campus while some have difficulty releasing summer pastimes . . . like sitting on picnic tables and barbecuing.

Decorations and harvest competitions celebrate the autumn.



Autumnal Colours and Happiness

Left and (later) below - Traditional fare of the autumn.



Photos by
Kym Crawford
Vicki Hartlen
Monica Paliniewicz
and Jamie White

Below - The children of the Niagara College Child Care Centre kindergarten class were happy to pose for this image full of fall colour.

Above - Nettie Lammers walks her dog amid the colour on Niagara College's track.

EYE ON NIAGARA

United Way sets $900,000 to help provide services

By MARY KOTSOPOULOS
Staff Writer

The United Way of South Niagara has set a 1999 campaign goal of $900,000.

About $176,000 has already been raised for the campaign. Last year, the goal was set at $887,000 and $902,000 was reached. This marks the 36th annual campaign for the United Way of South Niagara.

Individual campaign goals are $535,058 for Welland, $28,000 for Pelham and $100,000 for Port Colborne/Wainfleet. So far, $124,304 for Welland has been raised, $6,426 for Pelham and $12,180 for Port Colborne/Wainfleet.

The United Way has a committee at Niagara College. The goal for the 1999 campaign at Niagara College is set at 18,500. Anyone interested in donating should contact Joanne McKee or Nicole Perreault at Ext. 7547.

The United Way supports 28 affiliated agencies, involving 72 programs. United Way has helped one in three people of South Niagara.

Your donations to the United Way are directed to the most-needed local services.

"As a result of community support in 1997, $605,692 has been allocated to affiliated community agencies, and $59,493 has been designated to community-based charitable organizations."

In 1998, United Way of South Niagara provided $605,693 to support programs such as St. John Ambulance, AIDS Niagara, Community Resource and Action Centre and Credit Counselling of Regional Niagara.

As little as $1 a week provides groceries to a family of four. For $2 a week you can help a homeless person to a safe shelter. A donation of $9 a week provides counselling to a family or individual.

Only 15 per cent of the money raised for United Way is used for administrative costs.

United Way is holding various fund-raising events this month, including Jail and Bail tonight at the Seaway Mall and Port Colborne Mall. A Trivia Night is set for Oct. 23 at the Royal Canadian Legion on Morningstar Avenue in Welland and National Casual Day on Oct. 29 for "I'm dressed this way for United Way" stickers. Dressdown buttons are available for Dress Down Days.

"No other charity in the Niagara region touches more lives every year than United Way," said Sharon Svob, campaign and marketing director of United Way in South Niagara.

The 1999 campaign was kicked off Sept. 21 and is scheduled to end with a victory luncheon on Nov. 23.

Please contact the United Way in your community for more information on events or programs.

Three volunteers from the Niagara College United Way campaign serve at the barbecue fund-raising event.
Photo by Mary Kotsopoulos

Week of the Child annual event

Child Care Centre holding its annual event for AECEO

By JAMIE WHITE
Staff Writer

The Week of the Child is being celebrated Oct. 18 to Oct. 22 at the Niagara College Child Care Centre, at the Welland campus.

'Last year's event had some of the same activities and they all went great.'
– Pat Eversden

The Week of the Child is an annual event held during the third week of October. It was designed by the Association of Early Childhood Educators of Ontario (AECEO) to focus on the rights, interests and needs of children and to create public awareness about the values and qualities of early childhood education (ECE).

The AECEO, founded in 1950, is the only provincial organization for ECE professionals. They are sponsoring the events to be held at the child-care centre under the theme of "Cherish the Children."

Pat Eversden, manager of the Niagara College Child Care Centre, and volunteers from the centre and throughout the community, organized the events.

Eversden says last year's Week of the Child had some of the same activities and they all went "great," with good participation by staff and parents.

She says she hopes the same will happen for this year.

The official kick-off ceremony will be on Monday, Oct. 18, at the Sears Court, at the Pen Centre, in St. Catharines, at 10 a.m. Also at 10 a.m., at the Niagara College Child Care Centre, pony rides are being provided for toddler groups. Two ponies, Jody and Cricket, have been donated for the use of a family with a child in the day-care centre.

An open house is being held at the centre on Tuesday, Oct. 19. All friends, relatives and the public are welcome to attend. Between 7 p.m. and 8 p.m. on Tuesday, The Smudge Fundaes are performing at Centennial Secondary School in Welland, in the school's auditorium. Admission is $2 and a donation to the local food bank would be appreciated. There will be free draws and complimentary sundaes.

Parade day is held on Wednesday, Oct. 20. The children from the day-care centre will be parading across the college campus. Welland Mayor Dick Reuter and Elmo have been invited to join the parade.

Lighthouse Photography will be at the Niagara College Child Care Centre taking individual and group photos of the children on Thursday, Oct. 21.

Week of the Child
Oct. 18 to Oct. 22
Niagara College Child Care Centre,
Welland campus

The Week of the Child will end on Friday, Oct. 22. A raffle basket draw will take place and at 1 p.m. a trip to Winnicki's Pumpkin Patch is planned for Preschool 1, Preschool 2 and kindergarten groups at the child-care centre. Admission is $3 and transportation is being provided by Welland Transit.

Retreat to improve teamwork

By VICKI HARTLEN
Staff Writer

Fifty first-year students from the Social Service Worker program will be attending the first semi-annual retreat for their program.

The retreat will be held at the Mount Carmel Centre in Niagara Falls, Ont., on Oct. 15, 16 and 17.

"It's hoped that the workshops at the retreat will further prepare the year-one students for the workload and personal commitment involved in the full two-year program," said Phil Durrant, co-ordinator of the Social Service Worker program at Niagara College in Welland.

"The workshops are of an experiential nature with topics such as accepting differences, power and control in relationships and learning styles," said Durrant.

"These workshops are geared to issues most critical for term one students."

The retreat will begin on Friday at 6 p.m. and will finish Sunday at 12:30 p.m. "The students were notified about the retreat when they first applied and the student fee pays for the rest," said Durrant.

Students will get the full benefit of the workshops, which will be run by "those who work in the social worker's field and are graduates of the program," said Durrant.

Because of the background and experience the professionals will bring to the retreat, Durrant said, he believes they will be "apt at understanding the needs of the beginner student."

One of the main focuses of the retreat is to make the students work better as a team and help them increase their awareness of the social service worker field, said Durrant.

"All the issues are related to ethical and professional development in social services."

Although it is only the first retreat, expectations are high, he said.

"We've planned the retreat as a semi-annual event, not just for September-start students, but also for January-start students."

Durrant said he's sure all will go well and the students will benefit.

"Its (the retreat's) focus is on team building, social work values, clarification and development of academic support systems." All these skills are important to any first-year student, he added.

WELCOME

President holds barbecue for ESL students

ESL students had a beautiful day for a backyard barbecue

By NATSUKO TAMURA
Staff Writer

Two school buses stopped at Hillcrest Avenue in St. Catharines Saturday afternoon on Sept. 25.

The sun was calmly shining down. Under the clear, blue sky, a cool and crisp breeze carried the scents of the green grasses and colourful flowers in the garden.

It's Dan Patterson's backyard.

About 70 students and teachers from the English as a Second Language program spent the afternoon with the president of Niagara College and his wife, Saundra.

The Pattersons hosted the barbecue party. They had previously hosted a party for the international students in the winter of 1998.

"We want to have students over at least twice a year," says Patterson, adding he and his wife "really" enjoy this event.

Ikuto Taketani, 21, of Japan, a second-year Culinary Management program student, volunteered for the day to cook and help the Pattersons. Plenty of hamburgers, hotdogs, crackers, snacks, pop, beer and wine were provided.

Some students began playing Frisbee, while others sang along with a student playing the guitar.

"What a beautiful garden!" says Ruriko Nagahashi, 26, a Japanese student.

Patterson says his wife takes care of the garden.

Nagahashi played the ukulele for the president's wife. Nagahashi says she learned to play the instrument without taking lessons.

Yoko Saito, from Japan, says the setting for the party was like "a scene from a movie," adding, she was having fun.

Sitting on white comfy chairs, other students were chatting in a relaxed mood.

Christian Penaloza, 25, of Venezuela, says it's an "excellent experience."

"The president is friendly and easy to talk to," says Ryoko Miyazaki, 21, of Japan.

"I'm so glad I came to Niagara College," says Fiona Shen, of Taiwan. "It's perfect."

These English as a Second Language students enjoyed a barbecue at Niagara College President Dan Patterson's residence recently.

Photo by Natsuko Tamura

AFTER HOURS

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THURSDAY OCTOBER 28th

MEGA HALLOWEEN BASH

This will be the party of the year..... Be here early

WIN CASH PRIZES FOR

Best Costume

Most Original Costume

AROUND CAMPUS

Moving trees for new student residence

By MATT HOLLEY
Staff Writer

Nature is giving way to a new student residence at Niagara College's Glendale campus, in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Students in the arboriculture class, part of the Horticulture Technician program, were transplanting trees and clearing the proposed construction area.

"I think there is a great need to have the students on site because they travel from all over the area," said Don Papple, the class instructor, "so to have a place for students, especially those without transportation, is a great idea,"

The trees, originally part of the college's landscape, have been moved because groundbreaking for the residence will happen shortly.

"We didn't think the new residence was going to go in for another five years. We had no idea they were going to be this quick," Papple said.

The students moved deciduous trees, which shed their leaves annually, and coniferous trees, which bear cones, from the building site to the on-campus nursery. The nursery will be home to the eight-year-old trees until they are used in another landscape.

Papple said the process is fine for the trees. He said many still have the original wire basket on their bases. He said the trees were easier to move because they had been planted in the late summer and early fall.

"They (the students) get a chance to move the trees and a chance to use the tractor and other equipment we have here," said Papple.

He said when a landscape plan is available the class will move the trees to the designated locations. It will then be the students' job to care for and maintain the trees.

"We're going to heel them in. We'll dig a shallow hole to place them in and mulch up around them, so we can use them again."

This hands-on approach is an essential part of the class. Papple said he keeps his students in class for about half an hour and then lets them get their hands dirty. One of the jobs they will be doing is straightening the trees in the courtyard of the campus.

"In the first year, they do climbing, knots, ropes and tree transplanting. We go out to parks and homeowners' (properties) and do tree removal for them as well," said Papple.

At the Vineland Research Station, a facility run by the University of Guelph, the students will be removing trees stricken with Dutch Elm disease and those hit by lightning, said Papple.

He said enrolment has been steady but it's hard to get students to come back to school when they're making a lot of money. Papple said the job market is "huge right now" and most students get a job out of college in the field they've chosen.

From left, Ryan Davies, 20, of Dundas, Eric Olfert, 19, Dave Wilcox, 36, and Tom Taylor, 19, all of St. Catharines, remove an evergreen tree from the future site of the new student residence at Niagara College's Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Photo by Matt Holley

Enrolment drops

By MIRANDA HUBBS
Staff Writer

Enrolment at Niagara College dropped one per cent from last September, but as of the 10th day of class full-time enrolment still remains at an all-time high.

The reason for the slight drop is that there were fewer new applications taken in by the 10th day and because the college didn't advertise as much.

Al Vaughan, Niagara College registrar, says he thinks this happens because many times the late applicants tend to be people who haven't planned out their school career as much as they should have and are making last minute decisions.

"I think it was a combination of us not advertising the programs up to the 10th day, but also many of the people are working and decide not to come. The few we did get in the last couple of weeks were probably those who couldn't find a job and needed something to do in the fall."

Enrolment being down one per cent from last year is "no big deal" because at the beginning of the decade the college had about 4,000 full-time students. In the past nine years, enrolment has gone up 20 per cent, so enrolment is still at an all-time high.

Another factor over the past nine years is the adding of January start programs, which began about four years ago. On average, there are about 500 students who begin in January, affecting enrolment by 17 per cent.

Vaughan says the programs with January starts were started to give students more "access points."

If they were unable to make the September enrolment for whatever reason, they could still begin without waiting until the following fall and maybe lose interest by then. These start dates were also created to make better use of the college's facilities in the summer time.

This past January enrolment was down about 2.3 per cent, partly because "those who are non-traditional students, meaning not right out of high school, are affected more by the job market," says Vaughan.

For January 2000, two more programs will be added: a post-graduate Tourism Development program and a Micro-electronics Manufacturing program.

New digital equipment on its way

By MONICA PALINIEWICZ
Staff Writer

New digital equipment, valued at about $50,000, will allow about 65 television students at Niagara College to work with the latest in technology.

"This is going to be a major commitment for the next few years," says Stu Black, co-ordinator of the Broadcasting — Radio, Television and Film program.

"The other equipment is passé and it's time to keep up with modern technology."

The new equipment includes three Panasonic digital video cameras.

The opportunity to acquire funds to buy this equipment was brought to the attention of Bonnie Rose, Niagara College's vice-president academic, who received the money through a new initiative grant allocated for this particular use because there "was not enough in capital funds," says Black.

"People may sit there and think that $50,000 is a lot of money to be spending for one program, but in reality it's not," said Black.

"The cameras the college has now were donated to the school years ago. The college didn't pay a cent. We have been fortunate enough to have donations made by the CBC and CTV in the past, but now it's time to move along with technology — and that costs money."

Previously, the program has received donations from local television stations as well.

"The people in our area have been good scroungers," said Black.

"We received much of our equipment from CBC with much thanks to Tony Manera, who was the president of Niagara College until he went on to be president of CBC, until his retirement.

"We are also very appreciative for the audio reel-to-reel donation made by Telemedia in the past."

The students will be experimenting with this new high-tech digital equipment "real soon."

"The cameras and digital tape machines have been ordered and we're expecting them any day now," said Black.

"The students have much to look forward to in the coming years as this program progressively meets with the modern-day standards of technology in television broadcast."

Ambulances stay in public sector

By JAMIE McINTOSH
Staff Writer

The Hotel Dieu Hospital in St. Catharines has been awarded a $51-million contract to operate the Niagara Emergency Medical Service starting Jan. 1, 2000.

The service is the newly named ambulance provider in the Niagara region.

The responsibility of providing emergency medical service was downloaded this year by the Ontario government to the Regional Municipality of Niagara.

On Aug. 19, the Region voted to keep the service in the public sector. It had the options of contracting it out to a private firm or providing the service through its own resources.

Niagara Emergency Medical Services will provide all ambulance and paramedic services in the Niagara region for the next five years.

The two private companies submitting proposals were Rural-Metro Corp., based in Arizona, and Canadian Medical Response, a division of Laidlaw.

Greg Soto, co-chair of the Niagara Region Paramedic Committee, said he has fought to keep the service public. He said if the paramedic service went to the private sector the quality would suffer.

The private sector has "a bad track-record," said Soto.

One of the main problems with private service is the cost to patients, he said. In the United States, the Inspector General's office reported the average cost of an ambulance trip billed to Medicare was $500 US (about $750 Cdn) An ambulance trip in Ontario is $250, of which the patient pays $45. The rest of the cost is covered by the Ontario Health Insurance Plan.

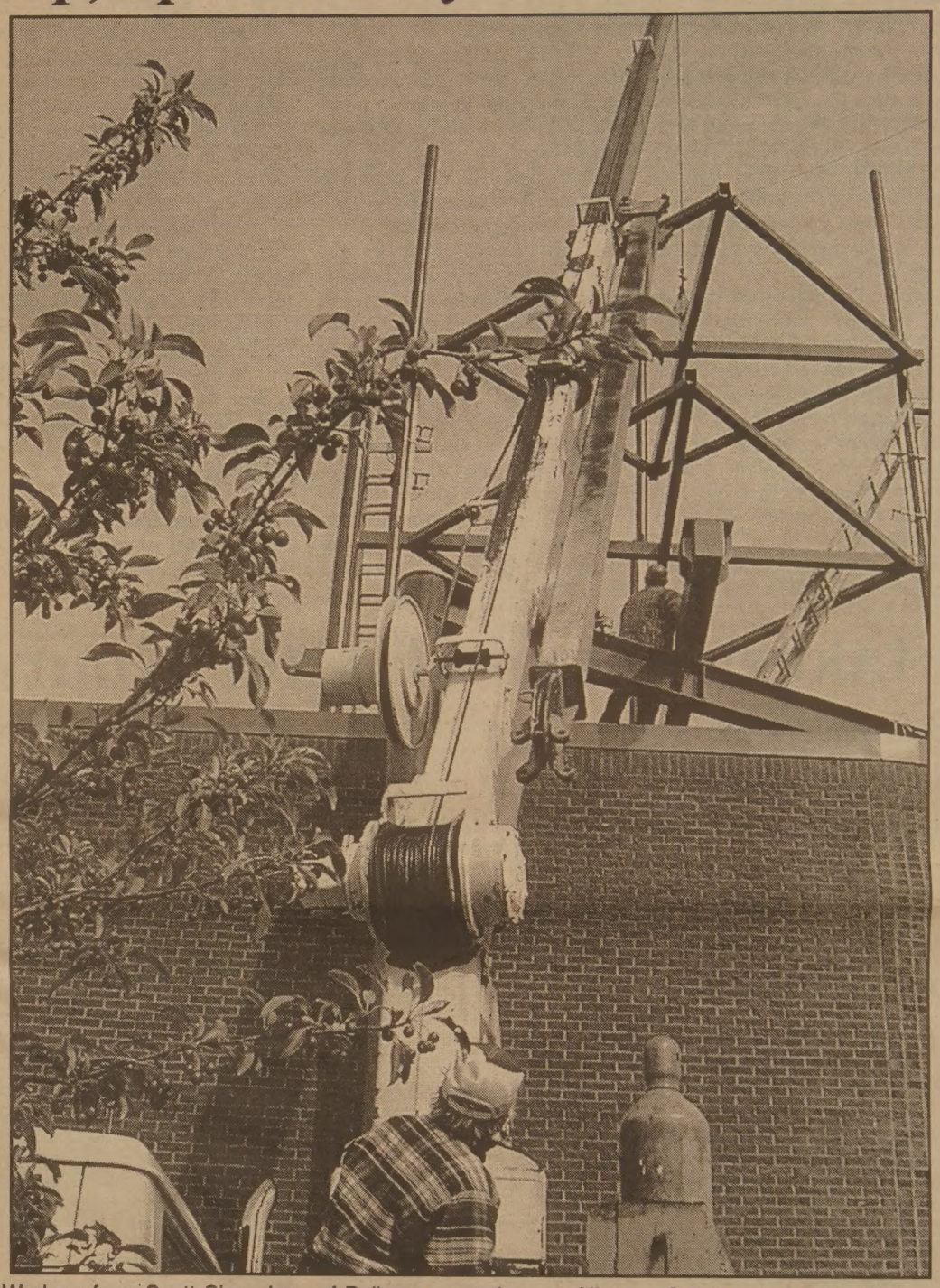
One of the largest private companies in Canada contributing to the paramedic service is Laidlaw.

They are "right out the door," said Soto. He said Laidlaw got out of the business "because there is no profit. What happened to all the promises of great service to the public?"

Soto said he was "happy" with regional council's decision.

CAMPUS COVERAGE

Up, up and away!



Workers from Scott Signs Inc., of Pelham, erect the new Niagara College sign at the Welland campus. The project is expected to be completed next month.

Photo by John Robbins

LRC, a student learning partner

By JENNIFER MAGO
Staff Writer

The Learning Resource Centre (LRC) has more to offer than you might think.

The staff at Niagara College's library is there to help students find what they need for research and assignments.

"Often it's good to check with us for an assignment. We can guide you right from the beginning stages," said Trish Labonte, LRC manager.

The Welland campus facility has three floors and is found in the Tecumseh Centre. It is there to meet the needs of students attending Niagara College, but can also be used by the public if they purchase a community user-card for $10.

At the front entrance is an audio-visual station where films, videos and slides can be watched for research purposes.

In the circulating collection on the main floor, about 40,000 books are arranged according to the Library of Congress classification system.

Reference books can be found on the lower floor. This includes dictionaries, encyclopedias and almanacs.

Also on the lower floor are periodicals in print and electronic form. About 350 of these periodicals are print subscriptions to newspapers, popular magazines and journals. Periodicals in electronic form are found through research databases on network at the computer stations on the lower floor.

The last thing to be found on the lower floor is the vertical files containing newspaper clippings and pamphlets on different topics.

There are three rooms on the lower floor that are for group studying and peer tutoring.

The Internet is available at the LRC. It can be used for research purposes only. The computers are on a research network, so you can't use them to do your essays. Room S109 has computers for word processing.

A maximum of 10 books can be taken out for two weeks by using a student identification card. A limit of two reserve materials and a camcorder can be taken out for educational use.

"Students must fill out a form for camcorders, which indicates the academic need and teacher. No down payment is required, but students are responsible for the damage fee," said Labonte.

Fines on overdue books are 25 cents a day for each book. Any reserved items that are overdue are assessed a fine of 50 cents an hour and overdue camcorders are $2 an hour.

Photocopying cost is 15 cents a copy. If the student identification card is used to purchase a copy it is only 10 cents each.

The LRC is open 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. except on Fridays when it closes at 4:45 p.m. Saturday hours, from noon to 4 p.m., begin on Oct. 16. Any changes to the hours will be posted on the LRC entrance doors.

"I'd really like students to come in early and check us out before the anxiety of the mid-terms," said Labonte.

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Goodbye, Lou

Lou Orr is retiring from Niagara College after more than 19 years.

Former students and staff friends are invited to attend a special get-together on Wednesday, Oct. 20, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

"Your presence is respectfully requested at this important event to honour the woman who has made such a lasting impact on so many lives," said Allison Chiappetta, of the college's Literacy and Basic Skills Department. She is an organizer of the event, which will be held at the Alexander Davidson Pub (lower ground floor) at the Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake. There is no cost.

"We're hoping many people will come and express their thanks to Lou," said Chiappetta.

More information can be obtained by telephoning Chiappetta at 735-2211, Ext. 4416.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Hollywood magic comes to Niagara

By SAM BAYLY
Staff Writer

A new dining and bar extravaganza has arrived in Niagara.

Located right beside Casino Niagara in Niagara Falls, Planet Hollywood opened its doors on May 11.

"Here guests can expect to be taken away from the day-to-day monotony of just going to a restaurant, eating and getting out," says Chris Mills, the floor manager in charge of the bar.

Mills, 29, of St. Catharines, says the Planet Hollywood experience is about "recreating those moments that you found most touching or most entertaining in the movie industry. It's all about creating that aura, that atmosphere of stardom, Hollywood, fame, glory, that moment in the spotlight," adds Richard Ocvirk, 26, of Burlington. Ocvirk is the floor manager in charge of bussers, hosts and phone cashiers. "It's a bombardment of sensation."

Planet Hollywood is equipped with many audio and visual effects. At the entrance to the restaurant, three cars that were used in the movies Days of Thunder, Bonnie and Clyde, and Ace Ventura: When Nature Calls attract passers-by. Names of various stars have been engraved in the walkway, and music is constantly blaring from outdoor speakers.

At night, the dome-shaped roof glows bright blue while the Planet Hollywood name radiates red with blinking stars.

Inside, guests may dine in the Adventure, Sky, or Sci-Fi rooms, at the bar or on the patio.

Movie memorabilia decorates the inside of the restaurant from top to bottom. Guests will be fascinated by the props from classic and modern films, says Ocvirk.

Wesley Snipes' motorcycle from the movie Blade, Jim Carey's gold-painted cane from Batman Forever and Harvey Keitel's sunglasses from Pulp Fiction are a few of the hundreds of movie props inside.

"Still to this day I walk through and I haven't seen everything that's here," says Jen Dunn, 22, of Welland, a phone cashier for the restaurant. "There's just so much."

Big-screen televisions in every room show upcoming theatre releases, footage of stars visiting different Planet Hollywoods and clips of various movies — all put to music.

There are even drinks named Jurassic Park, Indecent Proposal and Pretty in Pink.

"It's fun," adds Dunn. "There's loud music but it gets everyone pumped up and in a great mood. There is a lot of energy that goes around here."

She says people are welcome to come in and look around without having to sit down and eat.

Actors Kevin Pollock and Dawson's Creek's Joshua Jackson, along with Mike Peca, captain of hockey's Buffalo Sabres, visited the restaurant for its official grand opening on July 1. Bruce Willis, with his band, The Accelerators, put on an outdoor concert for the hundreds of onlookers at the event.

The more than 400-seat restaurant averaged 15,000 to 20,000 visitors a week over the summer, says Marty Best, assistant general manager. Revenue averaged $200,000 a week, he added.

Despite recent reports of Planet Hollywood's financial difficulties, this restaurant has no plans of closing anytime soon, says Ocvirk.

This restaurant was one of the busiest in Canada, added Mills, and ranked in the top five for sales in the entire chain.

The off-season will give everyone a chance to "regroup," says Ocvirk. It will give the management and staff a chance to build a "strong, super team" ready to take on the next season.

It will also give them the chance to become active in the community by supporting such charities as United Way and Tender Wishes.

"It's all about having fun and having a good time," says Ocvirk, " . . . so that when you walk out you're just like 'that was amazing and I want to go back.'"

XXX-rated hypnotist takes control of After Hours

Tony Lee, the XXX-rated hypnotist, explains to his future subjects what is about to happen to them at After Hours on Sept. 27.
Photo by Craig Stratychuk

Controversial performer has been banned from several campuses

By CRAIG STRATYCHUK
Staff Writer

There's nothing better than watching your classmates as they make complete fools of themselves in front of hundreds of people.

Students and guests filed into the After Hours pub at the Welland campus for a different kind of comedy, care of Tony Lee, the XXX-rated hypnotist on Sept. 27.

Through hypnotism, Lee, 30, picks on and makes fools of the most unlikely people.

With most people knowing what to expect when watching a show like Lee's, one could understand why there aren't many volunteers willing to get up on stage to be hypnotized.

The lack of volunteers is no problem for Lee. He attempts to hypnotize the entire crowd.

As the lights went low and the jam-packed bar went silent, Lee started into his routine.

Through tone of voice, and a series of words and different commands and suggestions, Lee brought many unsuspecting students under his control.

Lee has 14 years' experience in the world of hypnotism and says his technique is like no one else's.

While under Lee's control, students went through many different and astonishingly humorous situations.

Lee started off lightly with tame suggestions such as changing temperatures. Lee had students go from being in an extreme heat wave to being quickly blasted with an Arctic blizzard.

Since Lee has the title of being the XXX-rated hypnotist, he has been banned from several campuses.

Lee says he is not too worried about his controversial title. Doing the show for the last six years has earned him six nominations and two awards. If Lee offends anyone, he says, they should have taken the XXX-rating more seriously.

Lee had his human zombies do a variety of things, such as keeping invisible pets. Lee had the hypnotized students think he was torturing, and finally killing, the invisible pets. Through coarse language and sexual connotations, Lee enticed the crowd. He had students using racial slurs, yelling profanities and even had one student strip down to his underwear.

"There's nothing like my show in the world. We're only here to have fun and nobody gets hurt," says Lee.

Lee will return to the college next semester for the second part of his show, where his act gets "crazier," he says.

Wednesday night comedy gets raunchy at campus pub

Audience member goes on stage, stuffs beer bottle up comedian's backside

By MARK GARRETT
Staff Writer

Is there a proctologist in the house?

Actor/comedian Jason Rouse, 27, of Hamilton, brought the After Hours pub on Niagara College's Welland campus to an agonizing, gut-wrenching halt.

Rouse invited a guest on to the stage and convinced her to shove a Molson Canadian beer bottle into his posterior on Sept. 22.

Rouse is no stranger to the centre stage. He has appeared on Open Mike with Mike Bullard and the Tom Green Show. When Rouse appeared with Green, they had a vomiting contest that ended with a chunky mess.

After Hours was crammed to the doors with about 250 people. The pub was so full and dark, some viewers had to sit on the floor because there weren't enough chairs. Even if there had been, you would have had to fight through a crowd in front of the bar to get to the seating area.

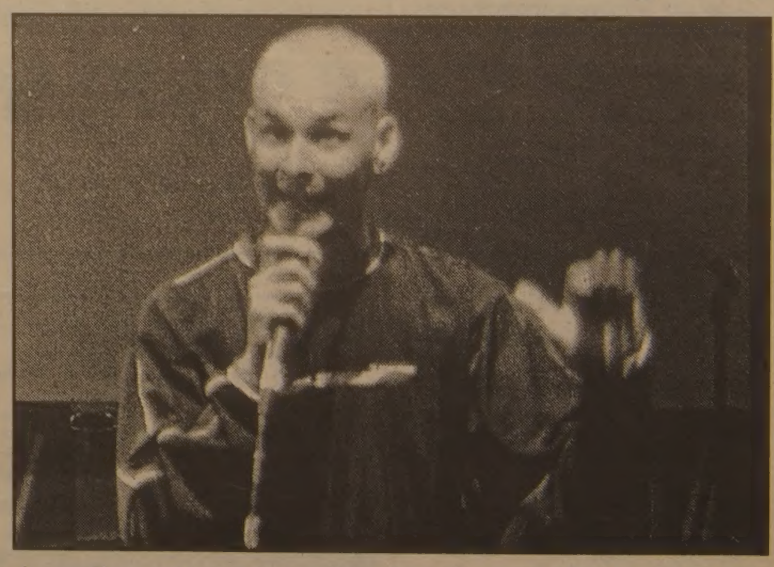
Gavin Stephens, 24, of Scarborough, delivered a solid show with his views on having a "black people cereal" called "Afro-jacks." He says everyone has a cereal except black people.

Stephens says, "Don't smoke weed and rob the 7-11," which is "good advice."

"In 20 years I want to be doing major cities, big theatres, and doing movies," but says, for now, he will keep travelling.

Special guest Manolis Zontanos, 29, a friend of Rouse and Stephens, says, "I was totally stoked for the show."

Zontanos says he was "nervous" but it didn't show when he took to the stage following the national anthem. Although Zantanos performed for a very short time, his point that "anything is better than your hand" will never be forgotten.



Jason Rouse gave a hair-raising experience at After Hours on the Welland campus on Sept. 22.
Photo by Mark Garrett

REVIEWS

Clown Jerks breaking ground

By MONICA PALINIEWICZ
Staff Writer

The Clown Jerks are a rising, new, innovative band from the Hamilton area. Its five members are breaking ground in the genre of "emo-core."

Rocco Santucci, 20, of Hamilton, Mike Trigatti, 20, Alan Nacinovic, 20, Derek Petrella, 18, and Sonny Ciufo, 18, all from Stoney Creek, formed Clown Jerks in 1995 and are "still going strong," says Santucci, lead vocalist.

"The Clown Jerks came together in Grade 10 at a talent show," says Santucci. "At the time we had different members but in the end, we all came together."

'We have all had different ideas for the band at one point or another, and we sometimes just can't agree on the same thing.'

— Rocco Santucci

The band has been "going strong," Santucci says, although there have been some "struggles."

"It's difficult to deal with four individual minds," says Santucci.

"We have all had different ideas for the band at one point or another and we sometimes just can't agree on the same thing. There is also the money factor, which can be trying at times when we want to progress but don't have the funds."

The music of the Clown Jerks is categorized by their producer/engineer as "emo-core."

"Our music is like melodic metal that hits you even if you may not understand the full meaning of the song. It's intense," says Santucci.

Over the five years they have been together, the Clown Jerks have evolved, a fact displayed through their music.

"Our music is a lot more simple now, more unique," says Santucci. "We came into our own rather than through external experiences."

Although all members are attending school, from McMaster University to Niagara College, and maintaining part-time jobs, they still find time to "keep up with the music."

"We're in the process of recording a new CD (and) making new shirts and we're trying to get some new band contacts to do some shows in the Toronto area," says Santucci.

The Clown Jerks' emphatic, fresh sound and powerfully driven lyrics create a sense of euphoria.

They will be performing on Nov. 6 at the Corktown Tavern in Hamilton, with Chore and King Kung.

Rocco Santucci-vocals
Mike Triggati-bassist
Alan Nacinovic-guitarist
Derek Petrella-drums
Sonny Ciufo-keyboards

Tori Amos impresses crowd at Toronto concert in September

By MONICA PALINIEWICZ
Staff Writer

Tori Amos is one of those musicians who will have you leaving their shows in a trance.

This happened to many fans at the Sept. 7 show held at the Molson Ampitheatre in Toronto.

With talents that exceed most performers', this 36-year-old North Carolina native kept the crowd transfixed with her piano-playing capabilities.

Amos's music is undefined as to a specific style but ranges from one extreme to another

Amos's music is undefined as to a specific style but ranges from one extreme to another. From soft, melancholic tunes such as *China, Sugar* and *Silent All These Years,* to the anger-ridden sounds of *Precious Things, Blood Roses* and *Crucify,* the crowd was completely captivated.

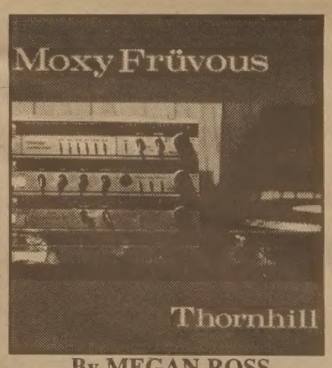
TORI AMOS

The minimalist stage setup featured lava lamps scattered about, although they did not detract from Amos' brilliant performance.

She possesses the talent for a live performance that captures her audience from start to finish.

Her fifth album, **To Venus and Back,** was released Sept. 21.

Moxy Fruvous back once again



By MEGAN ROSS
Staff Writer

If life's too fast, slow it down with Moxy Fruvous's new **CD Thornhill.**

Reminiscent of the band's prior release **Wood**, this is a relaxed blend of sounds unlike the upbeat folk style of the premier CD **Bargainville**.

Jian Ghoemshi, David Matheson, Murray Foster and Mike Ford have been beating around in the music scene since the early 1990s.

The members of Moxy made themselves a name with the songs *Green Eggs and Ham* and *The King of Spain.*

Moxy Fruvous's appeal is in the changing nature of the group's music style. The unpredictability is the attraction.

Moxy really hits home with some of this music. Starting with **Bargainville**, they approached the world with an upbeat CD, which made listeners want to dance and sing.

With **Wood**, they mellowed out and got into some depressing songs, but with a few songs, returned to the upbeat comic style that is their trademark.

The B Album is filled with little comedic songs that will make you laugh, especially if you enjoy American politics, from a liberal point of view.

You Will Go To The Moon is a more frightening album. A few of the songs make you wonder if Moxy was on any illegal substances when writing them.

Live Noise is their live CD. It gives a taste of all of your favourite songs, and lets you get to know bit about who they are and what happens at their concerts.

Moviegoers are driven crazy

By MEGAN ROSS
Staff Writer

If you're young at heart and enjoy a good romantic flick, Drive Me Crazy will fit the bill.

Drive Me Crazy is a romantic comedy starring Melissa Joan Hart, known for her television role as Sabrina, the Teenage Witch. Adrian Grenier is cast as her leading man.

This is a highly enjoyable movie. If you catch the ending, it will make you laugh.

The movie starts with Hart, who plays Nicole, dreaming about a basketball player. When he doesn't ask her to the Centennial Celebration dance, she plans to get him back.

Grenier plays Chase, Nicole's next-door neighbour and childhood friend. He has just broken up with his goth/animal-rights-supporting/wanna-be girlfriend.

Nicole involves him in her plan to make all her dreams come true.

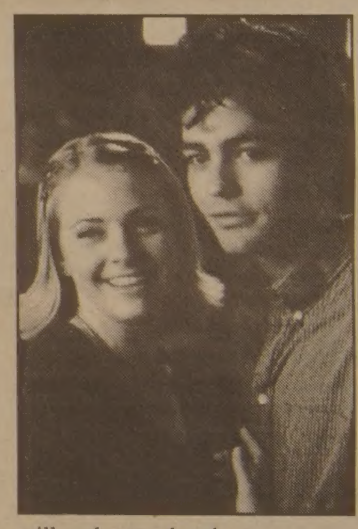
Drive Me Crazy shows the difference between the "cool" kids in school and the "dorky." Nicole and Chase discover this too.

Chase's two best friends, Ray and Dave, played by Kris Park and Mark Webber, watch their best friend being pulled away from them by the "cool" kids.

Dave (Webber) has always wanted to be part of the in-crowd and gets as close as he can at the end of the movie.

All in all, it is a good movie that makes you think about the labels high school kids put on each other, and how, when we look at each other, we are all the same.

This is a highly enjoyable movie. If you catch the ending, it will make you laugh.



This flick can provide a few giggles, especially when a few pre-teens at the back of the theatre started to sing along with (You Drive Me) Crazy, the theme song of the movie, performed by Britney Spears.

Book sale coming to Niagara College

Sale will take place Saturday, Oct. 30, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Black Walnut building

The Canadian Federation of University Women is hosting its 29th annual book sale in support of scholarships for local female students.

The sale will take place in the Niagara College cafeteria, located in the Black Walnut building, at the Welland campus on Saturday, Oct. 30, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

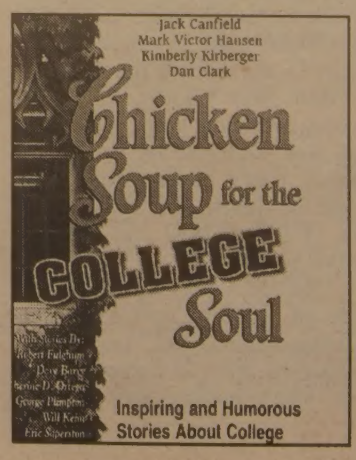
To donate books, games, CDs, videos or texts call 735-1253, 892-6535 or 836-2291.

Chicken Soup cures all

By CASSANDRA SIMONS
Staff Writer

Chicken Soup for the College Soul is the perfect remedy for students who just want to curl up with a big cup of hot chocolate on a cold autumn's day.

Whether you're feeling homesick, under the weather or stressed out, or just need to have a good laugh, this book, by No. 1 New York Times best-selling authors Jack Canfield, Mark Victor Hansen, Kimberly Kirberger and Dan Clark, will do the job. Health Communications Inc. published this 314-page book.



The book is a compilation of stories written by alumni, parents and students away from home for the first time. It is filled with stories of finding love at college, stories from both within and outside the classrooms, as well as graduation stories.

The tales will inspire and amuse you. If you've ever felt you are alone with the problems you have, I recommend this book to you. You are not alone.

Welcome to college.

Have a bowl of chicken soup.

SPORTS

Niagara College honours athletes

By MIKE DILTS
Staff Writer

It's time for Niagara College to honour the athletes, coaches and administrators of its athletic programs.

The college's second annual ceremony will see six new names added to the Niagara Knights Athletics Hall of Fame in the Mackenzie building at the Welland campus on Oct. 23. The Hall of Fame induction ceremony will be part of the college's Homecoming Weekend with a women's volleyball game at 12:30 p.m. and a men's basketball game at 3 p.m.

The ceremony will be held at the After Hours pub on the Welland campus at 5:30 p.m. with cocktails and a buffet-style meal at 6 p.m. Around 6:30 p.m, the plaques, engraved with the inductee's picture and a small biography, will be given out.

"These people represented Niagara College out on the playing field, on the ice, on the court and they represented us well and they were very successful at it," said Ray Sarkis, the college's co-ordinator of athletics and recreation.

Ray Sarkis, co-ordinator of athletics and recreation, displays the plaques of last year's inductees.

Photo by Mike Dilts

Brigitte Chiki, the college's director of student services, said these individuals were obvious choices for the awards because they "went far and above exceptional in their field. They are very deserving of the recognition."

The inductees are put into two categories: athletes and builders. Athletes are those who have participated in sports or athletic activities. Five of the six inductees are in this category: Teresa (Porter) Frazer, Carolyn (St. Angelo) Ladas, Paul Weller, Randy Kerr and James Darling. The final inductee, Alphonse Aboud, participated in the college's athletic program as a builder. Builders are those who were coaches, administrators and supporters of athletic programs.

Aboud was born in Haileybury, Ont., and was the director of student services when the college began in 1967. Aboud was involved in recommending the college build proper athletic facilities, developing its athletic programs and hiring the college's initial athletic staff.

"If he hadn't gone ahead and pushed for athletic facilities, a gymnasium, and athletic department, who knows, maybe it wouldn't have happened for years," said Sarkis, adding Aboud was the original visionary and he "thanks him for it."

Frazer, from Oshweken, Ont., spent two years at Niagara and competed on the badminton team. She was voted freshman Athlete of the Year in 1974 and was the 1975 Ontario Colleges Athletic Association (OCAA) badminton champion. After finishing college, Frazer went to the University of Manitoba and competed at the Canadian University Field Hockey Championships (CIAU).

Frazer was an "outstanding" badminton player, said Sarkis, adding that she accomplished a great deal.

Ladas, from Niagara Falls, Ont., was on the women's basketball team for three years. Ladas had an average of 16.7 points a game in 1981, finishing fourth in the OCAA. She was on the silver medal winning team in 1982. Ladas played intramural floor hockey and was female Athlete of the Year in 1981 and 1982.

"She was a team leader. She played very hard every minute, every second that she was on the court," said Sarkis.

Weller, from Walkerton, Ont., proved himself as a leading scorer for the men's basketball team. Weller was freshman Athlete of the Year in 1982, the team's most valuable player (MVP), Athlete of the Year in 1983 and 1992 and led the league with an average of 23 points a game in scoring.

"When he was out on the court, you couldn't miss him," said Sarkis. "You knew he was on the court and he stood out among the other players. The thing significant with Paul is he was here twice. He graduated and came back a few years later when he was in his 30s and again tried out for the team and made the team." Sarkis said Weller knows the game so well he made it easy for the coach to run the team.

Kerr, from Toronto, was at the college for three years. Kerr is the all-time leading scorer for the college's men's hockey team. Kerr won the Athlete of the Year award in 1979 and 1980 and received MVP honours.

"He was a great scorer. He was one of the best scorers Niagara College has ever had," said Sarkis.

Darling, from St. Catharines, led the men's hockey team to two International Collegiate Hockey League Championships, in 1989 and 1990. Darling won male Athlete of the Year in 1989 and 1990, was twice awarded first team and once second team all-star and won the league and team MVP designation in 1987, 1988 and 1989.

"Jim was the reason that they won the numbers of these international championships. He was the type of goaltender that the players felt comfortable in front of," said Sarkis.

"The players were relaxed, confident and they didn't worry about making a mistake because they knew Jim would bail them out."

The Hall of Fame started in March 31, 1998, with the induction of Peter Rylander, Ed Luciow, Lois Lamb, Tom Peat and Mark Nelson.

"Fred Bassi and I started discussing the idea of a Hall of Fame," said Sarkis.

"We called a group of people together who were involved in athletics before. We called Carol Boettcher, our vice-president at the time, and Chiki. We had a lunch meeting at Fred's house and discussed the whole idea. Everybody was gung-ho about it, and we put a committee together and went from there,"

The Niagara College Hall of Fame committee consists of Sarkis; Chiki; Ed Zametti, a retired member of the college's business faculty; Fred Bassi, athletic faculty; Peter Rylander, former co-ordinator of athletics and recreation; David Abraham, a retired mathematics faculty member; and Lou DiMattio, assistant to the director of student services.

More than 6,500 athletes have worn the Niagara uniform, while more than 40 coaches and many volunteers have guided these athletes in the past 30 years.

"We decided we would not go over six inductees per year. I can see it being six for the next few years because we have so many people to go through," said Sarkis.

"The Hall of Fame is to honour those who represented Niagara College athletics and the Niagara College student body and represented it well and who had accomplished a lot of things in their life here. We also need to honour those people who helped build our programs, who made our programs successful and helped make it what it is now."

Tickets for the ceremony can be bought at After Hours. Tickets purchased before Oct. 15 cost $10, while tickets after that will cost $12.

Amputee dedicated to world of sports

By LISA TAFT
Staff Writer

A football accident took half of Bob Fox's left leg, but not his love for sports.

While playing football in 1958, Fox, of Welland, was tackled and his leg was broken. Two weeks and two operations later, his lower left leg was amputated.

After the amputation, Fox began coaching his former football teammates with the Niagara Falls Thunderbirds.

BOB FOX
Photo submitted

A year after the amputation, he began golfing again but could play only three holes at first.

"I used to play quite a bit," says Fox," I had to make adjustments."

Sores started to and Fox began taping his leg to prevent rubbing. Each time he golfed he would add more holes until eventually he was able to play 18 holes again.

"It's like playing with a new set of golf clubs," says Fox. "You adjust."

Now after 41 years, Fox remains associated with a number of organizations in the Niagara Region as well as internationally. Fox was tricked into playing amputee golf. "My limb maker had been bugging me, and I didn't go into it because I didn't think I had a physical handicap," says Fox. "He tricked me into playing a scramble with his team."

Fox was co-captain of the International Amputee match play golf championship team. The Ontario Amputee & Les Autre (other disabilities) Sports Association hosted the tournament. There were 72 Canadian and international teams made up of a series of categories including above and below knee, above and below elbow multiple and les autre golfers.

This tournament is similar to the Ryder Cup in professional golf. Fox is the Canadian Amputee Sports Association National Golf chairman and served as tournament co-chairman.

Among his many other accomplishments, Fox is chairman of the national and provincial golf committees, president of the Ontario Amputee Sports Association and treasurer for the Canadian Sports Association.

Credit also goes to Fox for the Wall of Fame at the Seaway Mall in Welland, an idea inspired by a *Hall* of Fame for athletes at a high school in King City.

"People have worked very hard and deserve recognition," says Fox.

Volunteers pull together

By SHANNON DEARY
Staff Writer

Row, row, row your boat, gently down the stream.

The summer of 1999 brought the World Rowing Championships to St. Catharines, as volunteers from Port Dalhousie, Ont., came together to help in the success of the event. Politicians, students, church members and social service clubs all pooled their resources in a community effort.

Walt Lastewka, MP, said "It is our honour to host this prestigious international event," as quoted in a Special Rowing Edition Summer Report, mailed to people in St. Catharines. He said the success of this event had a $20.4-million economic impact on Niagara.

Port Dalhousie volunteers participated in ensuring the success of the championships. St. John's Anglican Church teamed with St. Mark's Church, Louth, to host a barbeque for the participants and spectators. St. Mark's supplied the "Holy Grill," a portable catering trailer, and stationed it on St. John's lawn.

Violet Priddle, the spokesperson for St. John's Anglican Church, said, "The money that we raise is going towards restoration of the churches." She said at the beginning of the week business was slow. However, by the end of the week, "it got quite busy."

The Port Dalhousie Lions Club hosted a "cook tent" supplying breakfast and lunch to the athletes and spectators at the opposite end of Main Street, near the island.

Grant Edwards, the man chosen to be in charge of the cook tent, said, "The World Rowing Championships is good for the community. We really needed it!"

The championships ran from Aug. 22 to Aug. 29. Sunday and Monday consisted of the preliminary heats; Tuesday and Wednesday, the repechage; Thursday and Friday, the semi-finals; Saturday and Sunday, the finals and closing ceremonies.

The Niagara Regional Police Service had assistance from Niagara College students enrolled in the Law and Security Administration program.

Sergeant Al DeRoche, who said the organizers expected a larger number of people and prepared themselves according to the numbers they were given, supervised the operation centre.

Sgt. DeRoche said they focused on traffic and crowd control by using patrolling officers.

He said that extra officers weren't assigned to the event, aside from the volunteers, except for the opening and closing ceremonies.

"It's a great opportunity to meet new, interesting people from around the world."

SPORTS

Niagara Dome offers more than hockey

By SHANNON DEARY
Staff Writer

Hockey is life; everything else is just practice.

Ask those at The Niagara Dome, and they'll tell you a different story.

With recently completed renovations, The Niagara Dome, at 151 Dunkirk Rd., St. Catharines, has a wide variety of entertainment.

The indoor sports complex started in November 1998 by owners Russ Wilson, Wayne Kretz and Brian Tomodio.

"Our main intention is for everyone to enjoy themselves and have fun," said Wilson.

Ball hockey is "taking the lion's share" at The Dome, since an organized, competitive league was formed. There is a men's league with divisions A, B, C, D, and DD, a women's league, a co-ed league, and a youngsters' league. Games run from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. weekly and 9 a.m. to noon on weekends. The staff consists of 14 to 15 members. About 2,000 games have been played to date.

Wilson said, throughout the seasons they have 40 to 60 teams.

"Our aim is to have a safer league with a better attitude towards the game," said Wilson. He said they are strict with penalties, and ask anyone who is out of hand to leave.

The Dome has public roller-skating every Saturday from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

It is advertised on radio station 105.7 FM and will play "top 20 tunes" for teens and have free prizes.

This year, Wilson said, they will be hosting wrestling once a month starting Oct. 22.

The Dome provides live entertainment. In the past, Blue Rodeo, Sloan and Econoline Crush have performed. They are hoping to host an event every Friday starting next month.

The Dome recently opened a bar and restaurant, serving finger foods, beverages and alcohol.

"After a rough and tough game, the players can sit back and watch football or hockey on our televisions," Wilson said. "We want everyone to have a good time and sit back and enjoy a drink with something to eat."

Kretz is in charge of the bar and restaurant. He and a partner put in $45,000 to complete the renovations.

"We'd like to see a lot more people, other than just the players, to come check it out," said Kretz.

They have pool tables, foosball, hockey games, arcades and television sets.

Kretz is also in charge of Corner Stone, a telemarketing company located upstairs in the Dome.

"We do fund-raising for charities and take less fortunate kids to Marineland once a year," said Kretz, a member on a few of the teams at The Dome.

Wilson said he and Tomodio have been friends since Grade 1.

"This is a great business and a lot of fun," added Tomodio.

Lack of quality in starting pitching costs Jays

By JASON VIZBULIS
Staff Writer

The quest for the World Series ended early this season for baseball's Toronto Blue Jays,

The lack of quality starting-pitching and the dreaded injury bug made this a season to forget.

Pitchers David Wells, Pat Hentgen, Kelvim Escobar and Joey Hamilton were below average, at best, despite what their win-loss record indicates.

All four pitchers had Earned Run Averages more than five at one time during the season and won most games because the offense was lucky enough to produce.

An injury crippled the Blue Jays before the season started. Top veteran relief pitcher Paul Quantrill broke his leg in a snowmobile accident and, despite his valiant return, wasn't the same. Shortstop Alex Gonzalez injured his shoulder early in the season and was out for the year, creating a giant hole on the left side of the diamond. If it hadn't been for Toronto general manager Gord Ash's trade for replacement shortstop Tony Batista, the season would have been worse.

Then there's Jose Cruz and the dreaded designated hitter position. Cruz proved that he could handle the defensive part of the game, but looked lost at the plate. His trip to the minors did little to improve his play and this one-time, can't-miss prospect may soon be nothing more than a bench player.

What do Cecil Fielder, Geronimo Berroa, Willie Greene and Dave Hollins have in common? They all tried, and failed, to give the Jays any type of offensive help.

They played so badly that singles hitters Craig Grebeck and Tony Fernandez had to fill in for those weak hitters. This is a need that has to be filled next year, if for nothing else but to avoid the embarrassment it caused this year.

Now for the positive. Carlos Delgado and Shawn Green both played very well. Forty homers and more than 100 runs batted in made those two one of the most feared tandems in the American League.

It is crucial that the Jays sign Delgado and Green because they are the ball team. If either leaves, all other problems become insignificant because the Jays won't go anywhere next year.

Billy Koch and his 100-m.p.h fastball stunned the baseball world. He saved 30 games and established a new record for rookie saves in the American League. More experience will make him the reliever the Jays have been looking for since the glory days of Tom Henke and Duane Ward.

One of the biggest surprises of the season was the play of second baseman Homer Bush. Considered a minor part of last year's Roger Clemens' deal, he showed himself as a competent everyday player. He hit more than .300 and turned the double play better than any Jay second baseman since Roberto Alomar.

Ash has a big job trying to build this team back to its past glory. With a low budget to work with and the high-spending New York Yankees ready to pounce on any top talent, it's doubtful Ash will succeed.

Wrestlers bring language revolution to the ring

By ROBERT LAPENSÉE
Staff Writer

Why is wrestling so popular? Is it the glitzy pyrotechnics? Is it the actual wrestling? Is it the controversial language?

I think it is the latter. I don't mean all the four letter words that some wrestlers spit out at the millions and millions of wrestling fans, but the way the wrestlers use their language.

Gone are the days when wrestlers stood at a microphone and grunted "I'm gonna rip you apart, you scum!" trying to stir fear in the audiences. There are no more simple spiels of "Here we are in 'insert name of city,' the greatest place in the world!"

These days, wrestlers have a more educated voice. How to speak to the crowd is taught in the wrestling schools. This results in very entertaining interviews during what was a boring section of the program.

I'm not saying I like all the time spent talking. I think the World Wrestling Federation (WWF) and World Championship Wrestling (WCW) spend too much time talking to wrestlers. The WCW still has a way to go yet, but the WWF is much better than before.

The language revolution began with The Rock. Here is a man who is a very intelligent speaker and very charismatic. The Rock consistently delivers line after line of interesting, funny and intelligent remarks. It is a safe bet anything The Rock says will become household words and eventually clichés recognized across the country.

Chris Jericho is another great speaker. He never seems to use the same line twice and always has something funny to say about everyone. Jericho's WWF gimmick started him off attacking wrestlers verbally, bullying them about their boring language and wrestling skills. Jericho said he came to save the WWF, and indeed he has. He is very entertaining to watch.

My most anticipated contest is Jericho versus The Rock. This feud will yield great wrestling matches, as well as funny mike segments. Jericho, the so-called Y2J problem, and the Great One will lead wrestling to places the Hulkster and the Macho Man couldn't even pronounce.

No fight left this year for last year's Super Bowl finalists

By MIKE WENCEL
Staff Writer

The Denver Broncos and Atlanta Falcons are having a terrible year in the National Football League (NFL).

Denver and Atlanta had great years last year, but this season is almost the exact opposite.

Despite both teams being in last year's Super Bowl game, they are having a terrible start to the 1999 season. Both teams have only one win this season in five games, continuing to fight for the worst record in the NFL.

The Falcons are proving to be the one-year wonders of the NFL. Fans of the Falcons, who were Super Bowl finalists and the National Conference champions, should reasonably be expecting another great season. However, the Falcons don't have a chance to make the playoffs this season.

Falcons should just throw in their helmets and say 'mercy.'

After their Oct. 3 performance against the Baltimore Ravens in which they lost in overtime, one has to wonder what the Atlanta coaching staff was thinking when they chose not to kick a field goal with 49 seconds left but to punt instead. I guess no one cares in Atlanta anymore. The Falcons should just throw in their helmets and say "mercy."

The defending champions are another team with the same cry. After the retirement of quarterback John Elway, fans knew the Broncos were in a little trouble, but they expected Terrell Davis to pick up the workload with his rushing capabilities. We'll say "mercy" again because now Davis is gone for the year with a season-ending knee injury.

With Davis out of the lineup, the Broncos will have to pull together as a team to win two or three games this season.

Bronco fans will have to pick someone else to cheer for this year and in years to come. Another championship victory will have to wait, unless Elway comes out of retirement.

To put it all into perspective, it's hard to be a winner every season, but remember, fans, there's always next season.

AROUND CAMPUS

Special achievement calls for celebration

By LISA TAFT
Staff Writer

It's a special achievement to be an award winner so it calls for a celebration!

This is the first year a special night was set aside to honour achievements made by outstanding students in the Culinary Management, Tourism and Hotel and Restaurant programs at the Maid of the Mist Centre.

In past years, students who reached the pinnacles of academic success were presented with their award cheques and plaques after the graduation ceremony, but behind the scenes.

This year, a small gathering was held on Oct. 4 in the Kerrio Dining Room at the Centre in Niagara Falls.

"We hope to make this an annual event," says John Peacock, professor at the Maid of the Mist Centre, and master of ceremonies for the evening.

Of the 11 award winners, five were present. The absence of the others was due to job placements "and if there is ever a good excuse for not attending, that's it," added Peacock.

Volunteer Culinary Management students did a colourful job of laying out an assortment of hors d'oeuvres around the room.

Nine awards were presented throughout the evening.

The Culinary Management Achievement Award was presented to the students who demonstrated outstanding aptitude in food preparation skills, diligence and a positive attitude.

Other awards included The Canadian Cutlery Award for the highest academic standing in the graduating year, accompanied by a $900 knife set.

Winner of this award, Cheryl Beecroft, 31, of St. Catharines, says, "That was my goal for the first year but by second year I thought I was out of the running." Beecroft is an assistant manager of a Pizza Hut store in Stoney Creek, a mother of two small children as well as being on the president's honour roll for having an average above 90 per cent.

Some of the other awards included the Stella Howlett Memorial Scholarship, established in honour of Stella Howlett of the Niagara Falls Bridge Commission for her extraordinary service, fortitude, courage and ever-present amiability, and the Dominic Diodati Culinary Prize for highest marks from all the Food Preparation courses. Congratulations to all of the students who were honoured and for the success of the first awards night designed to recognize outstanding students.

1999 STUDENT AWARDS

Culinary Management Achievement Award
Culinary Management Program
* Elizabeth Miyata, Darryl Schoenfeldt, Katie Rine

Canada Cutlery Award
Culinary Management Program
* Cheryl Beecroft

Stella Howlett Memorial Award
Tourism Program
* Leigh Jankiv

Colonel Don Dailley Scholarship
Tourism program
* Karen Lepp

Canadian Hospitality Foundations Award
Hotel & Restaurant Program
* Marijana Cuckovic

Mr. Submarine Scholarship
Food Service/Hospitality Program
* Ahmed Mohammed

Michael Yando Memorial Award
Graduating Student in Hotel & Restaurant Program
* Michelle Aitchison

Dominic Diodati Certificate
Hotel & Restaurant Program
* Margaret Gospordarek

Canadian Hospitality Foundations Award
Hotel & Restaurant Program
* Brenda Shaw

Eleven Niagara College students won awards for culinary management, tourism management and hospitality. Pictured from left are Brenda Shaw, Cheryl Beecroft, Darryl Schoenfeldt, Ahmed Mohammed and Elizabeth Miyata. Absent was Katie Rine, Leigh Jankiv, Karen Lepp, Marijana Cuckovic, Michelle Aitchison and Margaret Gospordarek.

Photo by Sam Bayly

WITT breaking through

By LEIGH BEIHL
Staff Writer

Susan Kyle is bridging the gap between women and the skilled labour market at Niagara College's Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Kyle, 35, has been the program co-ordinator for the Women in Trades and Technology (WITT) program since its inception in 1994.

"It's a wonderful program," says Kyle, "and very successful. Eighty-seven per cent of our grads are placed, and feedback from their employers has been very positive. It's great."

WITT is a 19-week program, with four weeks of field placement and a focus on hands-on training for women in machine shop, welding, electrical maintenance, blueprint reading, technical math, word processing, AutoCad, workplace communication, computerized numerical control and occupational health and safety. The training facilities are state of the art, and about 95 per cent of the instructors are women.

"They (the instructors) are excellent role models," says Kyle. "I think that it's important for the students to see women who can apply these skills, who have succeeded in these fields. It makes the learning process less intimidating and gives them confidence. The students gain so much confidence in this program. From their first day to their last one, they're different people."

What Kyle would most like to see for the program is an increase in apprenticeship opportunities for students. "They can earn while they learn" and develop their skills into professions.

"These are challenging jobs and very well paying," says Kyle.

"Women deserve that. They should have as many opportunities as men."

'It's been an incredible opportunity to run this program to make it the success it is.'
— Susan Kyle

With a start date for classes on Oct. 25, the program still has room for late registrants, a fact Kyle attributes to the lack of government funding. Previously, WITT had been funded by Human Resource Development Canada and is in transition before eligibility for the tuition subsidies and Ontario Student Assistance Program support for students.

"It's a little embarrassing . . . and frustrating," says Kyle. "This is a wonderful program, and the trades pay a living wage, but the people who need it the most just can't afford it. Social services pour so much into keeping people at home, and once they're there, they don't have the money or the credit to get out themselves."

In spite of the current inconveniences, Kyle says she is very pleased with the program.

"It's been an incredible opportunity to run this program to make it the success it is. You have to see these women when they come out. They are so confident in their skills, so confident in themselves. I just love it."

SUSAN KYLE

Photo by Leigh Beihl

Club marks anniversary with new program

Niagara organization helps people with 'self-marketing'

By PAUL MOONEY
Staff Writer

The Job Finding Club, of St. Catharines, is about to celebrate its 10th anniversary. In celebration, the organization is about to begin a new program.

"Our mandate is to assist people in 'self-marketing,'" said Lynne Rabuk, co-ordinator. The organization has several locations across the Niagara region. Rabuk said she hopes with the skills they learn in the new program, people will be able to "find the work they're looking for, quicker."

The Job Finding Club offers three-week programs, Monday to Friday, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at no charge. The club provides access to computers, faxes, photocopiers, telephones, postage services, clerical support and networking opportunities, as well as information on hidden job markets.

With programs that "revitalize your job search, the new InternetWorking program will be a welcome addition," said Rabuk.

InternetWorking teaches aspects that are "relatively new" to the job-search field. The program teaches participants how to format their resume for electronic submission, how to e-mail their resumes, and "most importantly," how to post a resume on a Web site.

"In today's society these skills are not optional when looking for work. These are skills everyone should learn," said Rabuk.

On Sept. 29, Welland held its first annual job fair, funded by Human Resources Development Canada.

An organization called The People Dimension co-ordinated the event. The event was said to be a "success," with more than 1,100 in attendance and over 40 recruiting employers at the fair. Seminars were held in job assistance throughout the day.

Play that funky music

DDT plays for the students during lunch at After Hours.
Photo by Miranda Hubbs

du Maurier
ARTS

Supporting 234 cultural organizations across
Canada during the 1999-2000 season